

Comments to Ventures in Community Website: Proposed Shelter and Emergency Housing 2801 Beacon Hill Rd.

| Name | Organization or Zip | Comment |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Linda C Walton | 22310 | I support the replacement of the Kennedy shelter to the new location to be co-located with the Penn Daw Fire Station. |
| Beck Mordini | 22309 | This seems like a great location in a commercial lot, but not right on route 1. I like the idea of fire personnel being co-located. We should be proud to have such a state of the art facility as the one planned. I know some people are worried about homeless people being so close to their neighborhoods and I hope the county does more to help all of us understand homelessness and the value of the kind of program that will be at the new shelter. |
| Dana Greene | 22307 | This will improve safety and respect human life. |
| Brenda T Faison | Bethlehem Baptist Church | I strongly support the replacement of the Kenndy Shelter at the recommended site with the Penn Daw Fire station. |
| Donald G. Barnes | 22303 | There is a vital need for this new facility. Equally important is the need to gather and evaluate the data to determine whether this is solution is working and what adjustments need to be made to increase the magnitude of its success. |
| Sidoux M Mitchell | 22308 | I was on the UCM Board when the Ft. Belvoir building was offered. For some people it was not far enough away, for others, the location was difficult for residents to reach by public transportation. Those arguments remain some 30-odd years later. However, it is undeniable that the old shelter is inadequate, inconvenient, and not improveable. A better location, near jobs and transportation will meet the needs of our house-less. Having it close and in the public eye will encourage volunteers and donations. I very much endorse the move to the Hybla Valley Nursery location. |
| Kacie Greenwood | | Our community has a moral obligation to improve our shelter situation and better care for our less fortunate. The Beacon Hill shelter is a wonderful step forward in this endeavor supporting our homeless population. |
| Bryan R. Smith | 22308 | The shelter is a much needed humanitarian effort |
| Lisa Whetzel | Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services | If there is an opportunity to sign on to your letter, please include Alliance for Human Services. |
| Leah Tenorio | Good Shepherd Catholic Church | I fully support the new shelter at the site at Route One and Beacon Hill Rd. because I believe that It is important to provide care and services for the homeless here in our community. |
| Beverly Gearing | | I strongly support this new shelter. It will get the homeless off the streets, provide housing for the most vulnerable among us. NIMBY has got to stop. We are a community. |
| Skip Jones | 22308 | It is critical to respond to the needs of the homeless in our part of the county, and the over 100 year old shelter on Ft Belvoir is ill suited for the task. The co-location of the shelter, fire station and housing/services for the homeless appears to be an excellent use of the site and will address an urgent need in our community. |
| William Zaccagnino | 22308 | The need for updated homeless shelter, affordable housing, and fire station is undeniable. The availability of this property that can accommodate these needs is an opportunity the county cannot pass up. Both are crucial to the community and its people and the community should not delay in pursuing them. The homeless shelter and affordable housing are a reflection of the care we should provide to those who have been struck by poverty and low income and the fire station is essential to the safety of the community. Please do not delay in moving forward with this project. |

Comments to Ventures in Community Website: Proposed Shelter and Emergency Housing 2801 Beacon Hill Rd.

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Karen Latta | VIC and Aldersgate UMC | I visit the Kennedy Shelter every 6 weeks to provide food from the United Methodist Women at Aldersgate. The shelter no longer meets the needs of the people. It is outdated, crowded and not in good condition. We need to do a better job providing for all the people of Fairfax County. |
| Richard Rock | Good Shepherd Catholic Church | There is a great need for a shelter in south county |
| Dana Greene | 22307 | A new shelter is needed in this section of Fairfax County. The Beacon Mall site is a good location. Irrespective of the fears of some people, this will not bring problems to our area. We already have numerous homeless people. This effort will improve their lives and help them to function as full citizens. The shelter will help our community. I live one mile away from the center, have worked in the VIC Hop shelter, and give my support. |
| Jaffee White | 22306 | I support building a homeless shelter @Beacon Hill Rd & Richmond Hwy. |
| Ronald S. Brandt | 22308 | The proposed location is sensible because it is close to shopping and public transportation. |
| Mary Reid | 22307 | We need this shelter and other such facilities. Access to decent housing ***lowers*** the crime rate and contributes to neighborhood stability. |
| Raven Christmas | 22307 | I support building this shelter at the proposed location. Residents would have easy access to public transportation, and it is conveniently located near places to get necessary toiletries and food. This would enable us to support the unhoused members of our community in a respectful and dignified manner. |
| Tara West | Huntington Condo association | I support temporarily housing our unhoused neighbors at a new shelter. |
| Anonymous | | I think a shelter is much needed in this area. With the lack of affordable housing, either rental or ownership, and the economic distress exacerbated by COVID -19, taking some actions to protect and assist people is important and the right thing to do. I think this would be a good start. |
| Beverly Gearing | 22307 | I strongly support the location of Beacon Hill Road and Rte 1 for the homeless shelter. I believe itâ€™s fear mongering and leaning on outdated visions of a civil society to try to exclude our most vulnerable citizens from convenient, clean, accessible living conditions. |
| JuanCarlos DeJesus | 22306 | I am aware that this community is trying to be a better place for everyone. I am glad that these issues are being addressed, however, high school is a time to explore yourself and sometimes, you may want explore outside of the building which surrounds many neighborhoods. How can you ensure the safety of young adults and their parents? There are many kids who walk alone from school, walk around with the smiles on their faces not worried about anything because they feel safe in their environment. Right? What will happen to this community when here is a sudden, not really sure what to think, change? |
| Bud West | | I am a former Kennedy Shelter resident and know that the building was in need of desperate renovations. In addition relocating the shelter to the proposed new location will place residents closer to the job market, as well as providing affordable housing and programs during the day. New Hope Housing is doing their part and now they our support. |

Comments to Ventures in Community Website: Proposed Shelter and Emergency Housing 2801 Beacon Hill Rd.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Barbara A Bacon | 22307 and Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church | The proposed location for this new shelter makes so much sense. It would be close to health care services, public transportation, and job opportunities. Please approve this location, so construction can begin after such a long delay. |
| Genie McCreery | MVDDC Social Justice Cmte Vice Chair | The Beacon Hill Road is the perfect location for the new shelter; close to transportation, food, and healthcare for the homeless. This needs to be decided ASAP. |
| Elisabeth Murawski | 22307 | If people have a place to go to, they will be more motivated to get help for themselves. I believe there was a study in New York City that proved the benefits of having shelter; it is a basic need for every human being. |
| Mary Gillmarten | 22310 | <p>I have been a volunteer, board member, and trustee for New Hope Housing, Inc., which manages and operates the Kennedy Shelter on Route One. I have seen and experienced first hand how essential a good shelter and proper services are to ending involuntary homelessness. The proposal for the new shelter will provide adequate housing and resources to ensure access to training, jobs, and life skills necessary to keep those jobs, which are, in turn essential to ending homelessness. Many of the homeless are temporarily homeless due to medical bills they are unable to pay and just need transitional help!</p> <p>Our Girl Scout troop provided tutoring and child care so parents could attend parenting and life skills training at the family shelter on Lockheed Blvd., which led to two of my Girl Scouts speaking at community meetings in opposition to state budget cuts that would impact that shelter. In addition, I provided volunteer tax return preparation at the Kennedy shelter - yes, many homeless pay taxes but need help filing their returns. In one instance I was able to get a \$4,000 return for a man transitioning from homelessness that enabled him to buy a used car so he could shorten his commute to work. He had already regained custody of his 4 children. Together, we can help our neighbors back into productive roles in our community.</p> |

Comments to Ventures in Community Website: Proposed Shelter and Emergency Housing 2801 Beacon Hill Rd.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Kris Rosenthal | MVUC | <p>June 26, 2021</p> <p>Dear Supervisor Storck,</p> <p>I was new to the issue of replacing the Kennedy Shelter when I first heard about it a few months ago. At first, I was uncertain as to the wisdom of that location, partly because the noise for the guests from the fire station might be disruptive.</p> <p>And when someone challenged me as to whether I would accept an emergency shelter in my neighborhood, and welcome it, I gulped. It's natural enough that fears of unknown people pop up.</p> <p>But as I thought about it more, and realized that I have no control over who lives next door to me in my suburban neighborhood, at any time; and as I learned more about who comprises the population of homeless people, I became a strong advocate for the Penn Daw/Beacon Hill location. I WOULD welcome it in my neighborhood.</p> <p>And a little bit after that, I became sad that I had not understood what people in the current shelter are enduring in terms of living conditions. How can anyone find a personal sense of being centered, to overcome the challenges that placed them alone and in a shelter, in crowded, sewage smelling tiny rooms, far away from the rest of the population? It is long past time that we as a community face our responsibility to the most vulnerable, with compassion and our company. Fairfax is one of the richest counties in the US; surely we can do better, and set a model for care, supportive housing, and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every human.</p> <p>I also realized that at least two of my family members could be in need of supportive housing or a shelter, if it weren't for family support: both my brother and my son. Both are bright, kind, rule-following and challenged by deep depressive episodes. It happens in advantaged families, and certainly happens in dis-advantaged families. I asked myself would I be afraid to live with them: no, and I have! Would I want them in the present Kennedy Shelter: absolutely not.</p> <p>So, thank you for continuing to support finding the location that is available, and best suits the needs for vulnerable people to get back on their feet. Time is an issue here, as you know: a longer search for an undisputed property means an even longer wait for resolution.</p> <p>Sincerely Yours, Kris Rosenthal 3236 Woodland Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309</p> |
| Jim Voeller | 22307 | Kindness and Compassion! |
| Linda Doyle | Mount Vernon Unitarian Church | <p>As chairman of MVUC's social justice council, I want to add our council members' support for this to be the chosen site for the new Kennedy shelter. We work with the homeless along the Rte One Corridor and with VIC at the Hypothermia Center and feel this is the ideal location for the new shelter. To be successful the shelter needs to be close to public transportation, health services and in general be easy to reach and conveniently located; this site offers an excellent choice to fulfill the requirements of the homeless</p> |
| Helen lounsbury | 22309 | <p>After so many years this excellent needed site has been purchased. All those without housing need to in included. We cannot be exclusive of those who need supportive services and housing the most. Funds were set aside for just this 5+ years ago -services for all cannot be delayed any more!</p> |

Comments to Ventures in Community Website: Proposed Shelter and Emergency Housing 2801 Beacon Hill Rd.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Bob Fasick | 22153 and MVDDC Social Justice | In the June 25 meeting, the information on crime in and around the current shelter was informative, but there was no comparative provided. Also, the people complaining about crime don't provide any baseline of current crime level. And, there is no comparative information provided that shows Hybla Valley and the surrounds crime rate, along side other parts of your district. Lastly, the Fireman said the union is concerned about safety. Is that based on personal apprehension or actual data? I think that discussion needs to go forward, as I see it as baseless without data. Thanks! |
| Laura Burdick | 22303 | I support efforts to improve services for the homeless in my community. |