



July 16, 2022

Assemblyman Constant and Volland:

The Downtown and Fairview Community Councils met recently with representatives of the First Presbyterian Anchorage, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Rasmuson Foundation concerning the prospective sale of the Guest House hotel. We understand it is to be converted into housing units for low and extremely low income residents and some residents who need supportive services.

We appreciate the outreach by the prospective purchasers. The meeting was informative and resulted in a robust conversation between the project representatives and the participating community members. It was very productive because of the level of information provided and the open, honest exchange of views. This was a nice contrast to other recent community council meetings in other areas of town on other projects concerning moving people from homelessness. Those other meetings also concerned projects from the same facilitated plan between the Assembly and the Mayor to exit the mass care services stood up in the pandemic and to launch an integrated client and community centered approach to addressing homelessness.

We understand that the initial residents will be those who have recently left the congregate or non-congregate shelters stood up to serve people during the pandemic. We also understand that the project will provide workforce housing and supportive housing. We are working with the prospective property purchaser and other community partners to clarify our mutual expectations regarding the importance of maintaining ongoing neighbor relations, interactions with the community councils, maintaining neighborhood safety and stability, and staying in close contact to quickly address any issues that may arise.

We are encouraged to see more housing units in the urban core and to see stakeholders working together in a collaborative fashion to address an important community need of more affordable housing. We are also encouraged to see stakeholders working together as new housing projects come online to foster good neighbor relationships for the shared goals of connected and engaged neighbors for a strong and well-maintained neighborhood in an equitable city where residents can access affordable housing.

Respectfully,

Allen Kemplen, President
Fairview Community Council

Silvia Villanides, President
Downtown Community Council