From: Buddy Bee Anthony
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: fast tracking solutions.

Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2022 6:11:58 PM

Hi, it's me again.

please don't forget that people who might be in need of getting out of the rain at night, also need to feel they are a part of the greater whole. Not just a number at a ticket window. Maybe some ping pong tables, it isn't against the law, yet, is it, for poor people to have some indoor fun.

These peripheral services might just show that we care about them as individuals and having day lockers, too might make it easier for people to get work, by not sticking out as pariahs with their packs of belongings, change of clothes, etc, on their backs. Also, where is the private sector money. I feel, one of the biggest errors in thinking is that we can do this through municipal money coming in, diverting one program for another. Why not give small tax incentives to businesses for including these community friendly indoor spaces for everyone to enjoy. Not just a runway with a conveyor belt leading to a social worker. I understand that people have serious issues, and need help of trained professionals, but also talking with a peer, getting a welcoming smile from a community member there just maybe to look out the window or wait for a friend, also has value.

We have tried and tried again to swoop in like vultures to fix others who don't play by the same rules as everyone else, socially. Dfffficult populations who have roughed it outside, and maybe don't visualize themselves as part of our city but apart, without a home to call their own..

Maybe some of these community center participants will be just passing through, and are making note of how our leadership treats our under served underclassed, people now slumming it, vagabonds, the lost, the doomed, who may have given up and discover they are now, in odd circumstances.

I like the concept, but we need more of them. Participation from other sources, to rebuild our city,, people building begins not from the top down but from the bottom up. you don't have to be clean and sober and it appears we are accepting people as they are, and that is a good thing. I hope it translates to acceptance, belonging, and ultimately a decision by those we are coaxing to help, to come aboard and play ball with us. Get a job. Get sober, network with those in and out of their social sphere.

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Buddy Bee Anthony