

Agenda Item 107, Bishop Dudley House Fence

David Zokaite
March 4, 2025

Background

- Frequently, homeless shelter residents must leave shelters during the day
- i.e. the Bishop Dudley House
- Homeless people hang out at a nearby parking lot
- It's hard to see people having trouble
- They also hinder business
- A call for help and criticism of our culture

More Background

- Homelessness often due to addiction, emotional trauma, poverty, despair, crime, social injustice, ...
- Takes time and money to heal
- Housing the homeless saves tax dollars
- Shelters that serve alcohol reduce consumption
- Long term community care works

See Also

- I have talked about homeless repeatedly:
- "Minimizing Panhandling" September 5, 2023
- "Homeless Outreach" March 21, 2023
- "Healing Homelessness (And Addiction)" February 21, 2023
- "Healing Addiction" December 7, 2021
- "'Respite Park' Homeless Shelter" August 13, 2019
- Will review more during general public input

City's Proposed Approach To Homeless Congregating

- Install a fence to keep them out of a parking lot
- Will disperse them around town
- Does not address homelessness

City-Led Community Forum

- At the library last week
- Tremendous outpouring of compassion for homeless people
- It's great to see how much the community cares!
- Near unanimous aversion to proposed fence

Some Questions

- Is proposed fence part of a plan to get homeless people out of downtown?
- Are developers planning on gentrification with government support?
- There is a lot of money to be made

Better Options

- Build a daytime community center or park for homeless
- Make sure it has counseling services
- Improve and expand local shelters
- Correct mismatch between homeless needs and local offerings
- Especially for those who want a Christian nation, practice the compassion of Jesus

Enjoy Nature

