

From: Rob Peterka [<mailto:rob@bellingham-music.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:24 PM

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Subject: Homeless Strategies Workgroup -- Letter of Submission

Please find my attached letter regarding location consideration for the low-barrier/no-barrier shelter.

Respectfully,
Rob Peterka

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Bellingham Music

Bellingham Music

Bellingham Academy of Music

232 E Champion St

Bellingham, WA 98225

360-676-8742

February 15, 2018

**Bellingham Music
Bellingham Academy of Music
232 & 319 E. Champion Street
Bellingham, WA 98229**

Homeless Strategies Workgroup
Bellingham City Council
Whatcom County Council

Dear Workgroup Members:

I am respectfully submitting my opposition to Site G (located across from the WTA terminal on E. Champion St) of the proposed low-barrier/no-barrier shelter under consideration. Site G is almost directly across the street from my primary location and one block from a secondary location.

Bellingham Music is a music instrument business providing retail sales and rentals to a variety of community members, tourists and travelling professional musicians. Many people value our business as a convenient, downtown location supplying products used for hobby musicians, school music programs, professional recording projects and live performances at other local community venues. Any negative impact to Bellingham Music is a negative impact to a prominent, artistic and economic aspect of our community.

Bellingham Academy of Music is the instructional part of our business operating at both 232 and 319 E. Champion Street. Our academy clientele consists of approximately 130 students, most of whom attend one or both of our locations on Champion Street every week for private lessons or group classes. These students range from very young children to elderly adults – a majority being elementary school age.

As a business owner, I feel that a low-barrier/no-barrier shelter would threaten the sense of safety and security required for my business to succeed. As a parent myself I would likely take my business elsewhere to a more appropriate, lower-risk location.

I understand the challenges associated with finding a suitable location for such a facility, but strongly encourage the workgroup to remove Site G from consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Peterka, Owner
Bellingham Music
Via email

