

Garnet, LLC

Owner: 1616 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98264

February, 16 2018

Homeless Strategies Workgroup

Re: Location of Low Barrier Homeless Shelter

Dear HSW members,

As an investor in the downtown area, namely 1616 Cornwall Avenue, (the renovated Sears building), and a resident of the Bellingham area for over 50 years, I would like to respectfully request that 211 E. Champion Street be removed from consideration for the Low Barrier Homeless Shelter.

It seems counter intuitive to place a homeless shelter in an area where there has been such effort and progress made over the years to revitalize it. Although our building is located a couple blocks away from the proposed shelter, I know the surrounding area would be highly impacted in a negative way. Financial concerns set aside, the safety of our tenants and their cliental would potentially be put at risk. If businesses cannot operate in a safe environment they can't survive. As an owner, I could soon be faced with an empty building which would only compound the problem for the area. I'm afraid there would be a snowball affect leading to further business closures and empty buildings. Investors and businesses would simply choose to locate elsewhere and all effort and progress that was made over the years would be lost.

Please give further thought to your other potential locations that would have less impact on small business and residential communities.

Sincerely,

Hal Reardon
Managing member
Garnet, LLC

