

Members of the Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written public comment concerning the September 16 submission from Friends In Service Helping regarding homelessness and supportive housing in northeastern Nevada.

I live near the location FISH had proposed for its Northeastern Nevada Supportive Housing Initiative at 1349 Idaho Street in Elko. I understand that the specific project at that property is no longer moving forward after the anticipated grant funding did not materialize and the property moved to another buyer.

I want to emphasize that I support efforts to help people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. My concern throughout this process has been about how particular projects are located, how nearby communities are informed, and whether meaningful site-specific review occurs before major land-use decisions are effectively settled.

Through this experience, I learned that NRS 278.02071 changed the local review process for certain qualifying multifamily developments on commercially zoned property. City of Elko officials explained that, before this change, a proposal of this nature could have been subject to Planning Department analysis, Planning Commission hearings, public comment, and possible City Council review.

I respectfully encourage the Council, when considering supportive-housing policy and future development in rural Nevada, to recognize the importance of early community engagement, clear disclosure of proposed locations and operating plans, coordination with local governments, and meaningful consideration of site-specific impacts.

Supportive housing and meaningful community participation do not have to be opposing goals. I believe both can be preserved when projects are developed transparently and local communities retain a meaningful role in decisions affecting particular locations.

I appreciate the Council considering FISH's concerns about rural homelessness, and I hope the discussion also considers the perspective of residents and local governments who may be directly affected by future projects.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Michael Gilbert
Elko, Nevada