



Grover Wehman-Brown <grover@ebho.org>

Item 6-B - The Wellness Center is Critically Needed - Do not delay

1 message

Grover Wehman-Brown <grover@ebho.org>

Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 2:09 PM

To: clerk@alamedaca.gov

Cc: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <mezzashcraft@alamedaca.gov>, Malia Vella <mvella@alamedaca.gov>, tdaysog@alamedaca.gov, tspencer@alamedaca.gov, "cc: John Knox White" <jknoxwhite@alamedaca.gov>

Bcc: hello@transformalameda.com, Sophia DeWitt <sophia@ebho.org>

Dear Councilmembers,

The [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#) released by the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) in March showed that even before the pandemic - with its massive job loss, tenants unable to pay rent, and families in distress from death, illness, school closings, and uncertainty - homelessness had increased in the U.S. As you know, Alameda County did not do a Point in Time count in January 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the growing encampments and a vast number of people in economic distress before and during the pandemic indicate our county will mirror the nationwide increase in people who are trying to survive living outside, in vehicles, and in shelters.

The Wellness Center will provide critical care and housing to unhoused elders. During the last council meeting that you voted on issues related to the Wellness Center, a large number of community members provided written and verbal comments. The Wellness Center has a majority of support from the voters, funders, and regulatory agencies - no small feat in creating housing and care for our neighbors with low- and no- income because of inequity and disability.

What an opportunity we have here in Alameda to complete this project and reduce the number of unhoused elders living on our streets. Each attempt to delay the center prolongs the suffering of real people who deserve so much more. Councilmembers, please do not permit any more delays to the completion of the Wellness Center.

Sincerely,

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Grover Wehman-Brown

Communications Manager

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pronouns: she/her/hers or they/them/theirs