

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS II
Office of the City Clerk

City Council of the City of Napa
Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPA:

EVENING SESSION:

14. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Written communication from Rosemarie Vertullo dated November 19, 2019.
- Public Notice from Earle Craigie.
- Written communication from Lisa Reifers.

11/19/19
Public Comment to Napa City Council
Rosemarie Vertullo
[REDACTED]

Southeast Vintage Neighborhood Association Chairperson
P.O. Box 3034
Napa CA 94558

I am speaking for myself as well as a representative of the Southeast Vintage Neighborhood Association. We want to emphasize that we are not against the Sunrise property being used for low-income housing, Section 8 housing, or workforce housing. Our objections are that we do not see this location as beneficial to the tenants of the No Place Like Home Program nor to the safety and security of the surrounding neighborhood.

We do recognize and we stress that we support our community in caring for the homeless. It is equally important and a responsibility for you, as our city leaders and government, to assure protection from harm to residents, families, children and businesses in this neighborhood. It is also your responsibility to enter into programs for homeless people that are set up for success. For these reasons, we do not support the location of this project for tenants eligible for the No Place Like Home Program.

This is a new program that has not been in existence for very long. It has never been implemented in Napa either.

- One of our questions is what evidence do you have that it is going to be successful?
- Why was this location chosen when it is not convenient to the needed services of the tenants of the No Place Like Home Program?

Some of our neighbors have toured the Fremont Facility and you have suggested that this facility be used as a comparison. The Fremont apartments are funded by Mental Health Services Act and **NOT** No Place Like Home. These are two different programs. The comparison of the Fremont apartments with the proposed Heritage House is not a true comparison.

The Fremont apartment complexes are very new modern buildings that are centrally located near 2 bus stops, Fremont BART station with a new station in Fremont soon to open, ample sidewalks, bike lanes, many nearby shopping strip malls, fast food, etc. This is not the case for the location of the proposed Heritage House. Again, we want residents to be set up for success and the Sunrise location does not have these conveniences.

- How will the participants be set up for success - specifically regarding ease of access and transportation to mental health, drug, and alcohol support services?
- We understand that these Fremont sites have Resident Service Coordinators. Is the same as the on-site manager that is proposed for Heritage House?
- What is offered for Heritage and what is excluded?

Regarding tenant selection in Fremont, Abode does not do the tenant selection, MidPen does the selection and "the most stringent" rules apply in this selection.

- First, what does "most stringent" actually mean?
- Second, it is our understanding that the No Place Like Home rules are the rules that apply to these tenants which states that tenants must be severely mentally ill. How are you going to manage this?
- Tenants do not have to maintain sobriety or be drug free and they can refuse treatment and still not be evicted for these reasons. This makes for a potentially unsafe environment for the surrounding neighborhood which has a dense population including families with young children as well as elderly persons. How do we as residents of the surrounding neighborhood manage this?
- What is the City of Napa going to do to assure us of safety?

Earle Craigie
11/19/19
Public Comment
evening session

City Council Meeting
11/19/19
Supplemental II - 14. Public Comment
From: Earle Craigie

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOUTHEAST VINTAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT

The City of Napa is in the process of approving a 90-unit housing complex called the Heritage House and Valle Verde Apartments under the “supportive” and “affordable” housing umbrella. Of the 90 units, 33 units will be provided for “No Place Like Home (NPLH)” individuals with limited services.

- **All NPLH residents have serious mental illness**
The population to be served under the NPLH are adults with serious mental illness, or children with severe emotional disorders and their families, and chronically homeless. It includes persons who require or at risk of requiring acute psychiatric inpatient care, residential treatment, or outpatient crisis intervention because of mental disorders with symptoms of psychosis, suicidality, or violence. (Source: CA Dept of Housing & Community Development).
- **Residents do not have to participate in services or remain sober**
The California Welfare and Institution code 8255 states tenants are accepted regardless of sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in treatment services. Tenants cannot be rejected based on criminal convictions or lack of “house readiness”. The use of alcohol and drugs is NOT a reason for eviction nor is refusal of treatment.
- **Limited transportation for some behavioral health service offerings**
Onsite programs and transportation to the many needed social services is limited.
- **No required supervision off site**
The NPLH tenants can leave the premises with no supervision 24/7.
- **Potential negative community Impact**
This can adversely affect our community’s safety and wellbeing as the housing complex is in the vicinity of schools, senior housing and families with young and teenage children.

It is a moral imperative of our government and its leaders to protect its residents, families, children and business in our community from harm and disruption. We support “workforce” housing, housing for low income seniors, housing for transitional foster children NOT “supportive or NPLH” housing – too many children and elderly are at risk!

We ask you to join us and make your voices heard. Visit the Napa City website for more information www.cityofnapa.org/810/Heritage-House-Valle-Verde-Housing
Or our neighborhood website www.southeastvintageneighborhoodassoc.org
You can also contact via email : sevna2345@gmail.com for more info.

THE NAPA CITY COUNCIL WILL MAKE A DECISION ON THIS PROJECT JANUARY 2020. Email our mayor and city council members with your oppositions.

<https://www.cityofnapa.org/251/City-Council>

Good afternoon council members,

My name is Lisa Reifers and this is my mom, Sally Tiedemann. We live at [REDACTED]

We are here today to share our feelings about the Heritage House/Valle Verde Project.

But first, we chose to live in North Napa because of the culture in our neighborhood. There are many adult and retirement communities in this corner of the city. There is the 'Bel Air Village', 'The Springs' on Villa Lane and 'The Reserve' on Trancas St., just to name a couple. When you drive through our neighborhoods there are always people walking their dogs or with each other, kids going to and from school, people just strolling about. It is a nice safe neighborhood.

Our concern is not with the Heritage House/Valle Verde project itself.... But, rather with the location. Our neighborhood is not equipped to service the needs of the residents who will permanently reside there.

The No Place Like Home guide lines clearly state that "all persons must have a serious mental illness and be in need of mental health services." The nearest Clinic Ole is 2-3 blocks away and does not offer mental health services. The guidelines also say that mental health services be provided by the NPLH grant program, but there is NO requirement that these services be provided on site OR that the residents have to participate. IF, the residents chose to participate, they would have to travel down town to seek therapy, counseling, meetings, ect...

NPLH, also may not discriminate against sobriety or drug use. People who suffer from addiction need programs readily available to them to help control their disease. From what I've read about NPLH, it sounds more like ENABLING than helping.

When you combine mental health issues with drug and alcohol abuse, I wonder how safe our elderly and children will be, outside their own homes? I mention them first because they will be the most at risk and vulnerable!

There are numerous Doctor Offices on Valle Verde that dispense medications, making them a target for theft that wasn't there before. The patients may not feel so safe anymore either, coming and going to appointments.

I'm also concerned about drug paraphernalia, needles, syringes, ect. That could be introduced to our environment, causing health concerns.

We, as a family, want to contribute to our homeless community needs, perhaps a Low-Income Senior Housing Program would fit in better at this location.

Thank you for your time,

Lisa and Sally

FYI, I read on line at <https://www.dsh.ca.gov>>Napa

How the State Hospital has developed a partnership with various community based organizations and currently leases several buildings to support community and mental health services on the grounds.