



May 20, 2022

Douglas County Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the Castle Rock Town Council to let you know that a majority of the Council is opposed to the installation of a shelter site within Castle Rock for people experiencing homelessness.

We are interested in continuing to work with the Douglas County Homeless Initiative, the County and other municipalities to find solutions to help people experiencing homelessness. Siting any shelter is going to be difficult, and alternatives to shelters should be extensively exhausted. The potential negative downsides to a shelter may outweigh the current concerns. Any discussion of a shelter should involve any potential host community and impacted neighborhoods and citizens.

While we realize there is interest in collectively doing all we can, as soon as we can, to assist on this issue, we urge the County to take a deliberative process before initiating the establishment of any facility. Good intentions with the establishment of a shelter might lead to a number of problems for nearby properties and a community. Temporary can lead to permanent. A limited number of assisted individuals can grow to more. Providing strong services for individuals in need might lead to attracting or enabling additional individuals to serve. Using one-time federal funding for assisting unhoused individuals can lead to local taxpayers footing the bill once federal funding diminishes or stops. In some eyes, promises for adequate supervision don't provide guarantees to assure all neighbors that all negative impacts won't occur. Castle Rock is not served by public transit, making our community particularly challenging for a shelter facility where many individuals don't have transportation but have definite needs for transportation for medical care, work, etc. We are not aware of a community that operates a shelter that doesn't have some or all of these issues. We strongly believe that any steps in this regard should only be taken once there is in place a well-thought-out plan that is supported by all Douglas County communities.

We hope you appreciate these concerns we have brought forward, and we encourage you to reach out to us with as much information as possible about a prospective shelter, and to establish a dialogue with our entire Council on this topic. We all know how essential partnerships are within Douglas County, and we want to work with you all to realize the best possible solutions for all of Douglas County on this complicated issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JE Gray", written over a white rectangular area.

Jason Gray
Mayor

c: Town Council