



Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Land Use Commission Public Comment

1 message

noreply@formstack.com <noreply@formstack.com>

Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 11:40 AM

Reply-To: noreply@formstack.com

To: mmjones@cityofevanston.org, kashbaugh@cityofevanston.org, mklotz@cityofevanston.org



Formstack Submission For: **Land Use Commission Public Comment**

Submitted at 12/01/22 12:40 PM

Name: Dominic Voz

Address of Residence: 1740 Ridge Ave

Phone: (312) 620-8304

How would you like to make your public comment?: Written (see below)

Provide Written Comment Here: Open Communities stands firmly with Connections for the Homeless and their ability to continue to operate the Margarita Inn as a shelter for people who are unhoused. This service is vital to our community and Connects has shown an ability to deliver full wrap-around care and life-changing services to their clients. We support their excellent stewardship and operation of the Margarita Inn .

Agenda Item (or comment on item not on the agenda): Special Use Permit for the Margarita Inn

Position on Agenda Item: In Favor

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Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Use of Margarita Inn

1 message

jc son <jcs1393@sbcglobal.net>

Thu, Dec 1, 2022 at 2:50 PM

To: "dbiss@cityofevanston.org" <dbiss@cityofevanston.org>

Cc: "mklotz@cityofevanston.org" <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>, "mmjones@cityofevanston.org"

<mmjones@cityofevanston.org>, "ckelly@cityofevanston.org" <ckelly@cityofevanston.org>, "kharris@cityofevanston.org"

<kharris@cityofevanston.org>, "mwynne@cityofevanston.org" <mwynne@cityofevanston.org>,"

"jnieuwsmas@cityofevanston.org" <jnieuwsmas@cityofevanston.org>, "bburns@cityofevanston.org"

<bburns@cityofevanston.org>, "tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org" <tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org>,"

"erevelle@cityofevanston.org" <erevelle@cityofevanston.org>, "dreid@cityofevanston.org" <dreid@cityofevanston.org>,"

"jgeracaris@cityofevanston.org" <jgeracaris@cityofevanston.org>, "sflax@cityofevanston.org" <sflax@cityofevanston.org>,"

"communications@connect2home.org" <communications@connect2home.org>

My Name is Jc Sonne,

I've lived in Evanston for over 50 years and currently living a few feet south of the Margarita Inn.

Over the years, we have invited friends and family to live at the Margarita Inn. All were happy with their visit. We even dined downstairs when there was a restaurant.

My family is opposed to the use of the Margarita Inn for housing the homeless. In the past year, there have been many times when the homeless just stand around smoking on the sidewalk and it's difficult to get around them.

Also turning Evanston into a homeless shelter is chasing people out of Evanston. It certainly has chased businesses out of Evanston. With fewer businesses in each of the four 'downtown areas' there is little reason to walk around.

Evanston needs to develop other means to reduce the homeless population other than encouraging them with free housing and free food. THERE IS NO FREE HOUSING OR FREE FOOD. IT'S JUST OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY PAYING FOR THE FREE STUFF.

A homeless person without working brings to mind 'Idle hands are the devil's playground'. If they do not have a job, then they just hang out and cause problems as well as increasing panhandling.

I and my family vote to NOT approve turning the Margarita Inn into a center for the homeless population. These homeless shelters are destroying the suburban community which all Evanston residents choose to live.

In every city where there's an increased number of homeless shelters or residences, the city loses businesses and populations while our

taxes increase.

I encourage Evanston Council to veto this project and work on developing a better solution.

Jc Sonne

jcs1393@sbcglobal.net

**Melissa Klotz** <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Margarita Inn

1 message

Jennifer Coyne [she_hers] <jencoynel@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 15, 2023 at 4:43 PM

To: tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org, dbiss@cityofevanston.org, mklotz@cityofevanston.org

Dear Mayor Biss, Alderman Suffredin and Ms. Klotz - I am writing in support of the City's purchase of the Margarita Inn for Connections for the Homeless. I am a new 6th Ward resident but long time Evanstonian and believe this is a fundamental and important use for the building. My three children and I have made meals for Connections and I have donated funds from time to time through my church First Congregational of Evanston and with neighbors and friends. I hope the City is able to approve this special permit.

Jennifer Coyne
[2715 Noyes Street](#)
773-531-2855M



Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Margarita Inn

1 message

JoEllen Reaves <joellenreaves@yahoo.com>

Wed, Dec 7, 2022 at 4:46 PM

To: "tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org" <tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org>

Dear Mr. Suffredin,

My name is Jo Ellen Reaves and I live in the 6th Ward of Evanston. I am aware of the increasing number of homeless people in the U.S., the State of Illinois, and most importantly, the City of Evanston. I became acquainted with the Margarita Inn and Connections for the Homeless through a friend who lives in downtown Evanston. I frequently shop at Evanston downtown stores. I have never been in any way threatened by folks that call the Margarita Inn their home. They are polite when approaching me and I am aware that no one that currently resides at the Margarita Inn can panhandle and ask for money. I am very impressed with the wrap around services provided for the folks that reside at the Margarita Inn and how Connections works tirelessly to get the residents permanent housing and social services that they need to begin to re-order their lives and to start over as productive citizens.

I hope that you will support the ongoing use of the Margarita Inn as a shelter run by Connections.

Jo Ellen
[2709 Central Street](#)
[Evanston, IL 60201](#)



Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Support of Connections for the Homeless and the special use permit for Margarita Inn

1 message

Deanna Langle <deanna.langle@u.northwestern.edu>

Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 2:49 PM

To: mklotz@cityofevanston.org, ckelly@cityofevanston.org, kharris@cityofevanston.org, mwynne@cityofevanston.org, jnieuwsma@cityofevanston.org, bburns@cityofevanston.org, tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org, erevelle@cityofevanston.org, dreid@cityofevanston.org, jgeracaris@cityofevanston.org, communications@connect2home.org, dbiss@cityofevanston.org
Cc: Leandra Hawkins <leandrahawkins2024@u.northwestern.edu>, Anika Velasco <anikavelasco2024@u.northwestern.edu>, Nandi Siluma <NandiSiluma2023@u.northwestern.edu>, Garrett Short <GarrettShort2023@u.northwestern.edu>, Charlotte Glanville <charlotteglanville2024@u.northwestern.edu>, Glory Lyatuu <GloryLyatuu2023@u.northwestern.edu>, Rosa Gerner <rosagerner2025@u.northwestern.edu>, Rachel Spahn <rachelspahn2024@u.northwestern.edu>, Tyler Heyl <trh67@u.northwestern.edu>, Oliver Yocum <oliveryocum2024@u.northwestern.edu>, Laura Simmons <laurasimmons2025@u.northwestern.edu>

Dear Mayor Bliss, City Council Members, and Melissa Klotz, Zoning Administrator,

We, members of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University, attended the November 2022 LUC meeting where the special use permit was approved for Margarita Inn, and we are asking you to continue to support our neighbors in Evanston who would be homeless without the Margarita Inn and to support the ongoing work of Connections for the Homeless at Margarita Inn.

Our campus ministry has had a relationship with Connections for the Homeless for over 20 years. We have worked with Connections for the Homeless (particularly through Hilda's Place transitional shelter, the Bridges to Home program, and the Margarita Inn) supporting their mission and efforts with financial donations, monthly suppers, bag lunches, clothing drives, and our volunteer time. Before the pandemic, we had first-hand experience of serving dinner and sitting down to eat with the residents at the Connections' transitional shelter where we heard the residents speak of their daily lives -- looking for jobs, going to jobs, searching for an apartment, preparing to move to their own apartment, the challenges of health and medical needs, navigating paperwork and the "system," and, then, of course, we also got to hear the stories of their families, their life experiences beyond being homeless, their goals and hopes. We've heard their stories and challenges directly from them, and we've also heard the concrete differences that Connections for the Homeless was making in their lives. During the pandemic, we saw how quickly Evanston could house and feed homeless people if we wanted to, and Connections for the Homeless was the agency who effectively implemented shelter. We have witnessed the difference that Connections for the Homeless and their Housing First principles have made with the use of the Margarita Inn, and we support its ongoing purpose as a shelter that can lead to stable housing which leads to a higher quality of life and more stability in our community.

As a faith community, we believe that we are to love and serve our neighbors and to care for the most vulnerable in our midst. We continue to provide bag lunches and monthly meals to the Margarita Inn residents, and, even though we miss interacting with the residents, we are grateful that they now have shelter that includes their own space in which they are eating these meals. We are grateful that we can support our neighbors as they seek to live on their own, and we know they have to be happier having their own space and place to call *home*.

Our ministry is in a historic and upper-class housing district in Evanston, and we occasionally have people who are homeless show up at our ministry asking for support. We do not provide cash support nor are we equipped to provide the support they need. However, we do direct them to Connections, and then we support the work of Connections as much as we are able as a student ministry because we believe in helping the homeless, and we believe the mission of Connections for the Homeless accomplishes this life-giving work.

Thank you for hearing our concerns,

The LCMNU Student Community, Student Leadership Board, and Pastor Deanna Langle



Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Land Use Commission Public Comment

1 message

noreply@formstack.com <noreply@formstack.com>

Wed, Nov 30, 2022 at 8:43 PM

Reply-To: noreply@formstack.com

To: mmjones@cityofevanston.org, kashbaugh@cityofevanston.org, mklotz@cityofevanston.org



Formstack Submission For: **Land Use Commission Public Comment**

Submitted at 11/30/22 9:43 PM

Name: Lee Smith

Address of Residence: [1632 South Blvd Evanston](#)

Phone: (847) 421-2636

How would you like to make your public comment?: Written (see below)

Provide Written Comment Here: I support the application of Connections to operate the Margarita Inn for housing for the homeless. Connections is providing local solutions for homelessness which is a national problem. I urge the LUC to support Connections requested application.

Agenda Item (or comment on item not on the agenda): November 30 Land Use Commission meeting

Position on Agenda Item: In Favor

12/2/22, 4:28 PM

CITY OF EVANSTON Mail - Land Use Commission Public Comment
Formstack, [11671 Lantern Road, Suite 300, Fishers, IN 46038](#)



Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Land Use Commission Public Comment

1 message

noreply@formstack.com <noreply@formstack.com>

Wed, Nov 30, 2022 at 9:04 PM

Reply-To: noreply@formstack.com

To: mmjones@cityofevanston.org, kashbaugh@cityofevanston.org, mklotz@cityofevanston.org



Formstack Submission For: **Land Use Commission Public Comment**

Submitted at 11/30/22 10:04 PM

Name:	Mike Roth
Address of Residence:	1555 Oak
Phone:	
How would you like to make your public comment?:	In-person
Provide Written Comment Here:	
Agenda Item (or comment on item not on the agenda):	Margarita
Position on Agenda Item:	Opposed

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November 30, 2022

BY PERSONAL DELIVERY

City of Evanston Land Use Commission
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

RE: Zoning Petition 22ZMJV-0078; Connections for the Homeless, 1566 Oak Avenue

Evanston Land Use Commission:

This matter involves a petition for special use approval by Connections for the Homeless for the operation of a rooming house for temporary housing for homeless individuals at the Margarita Inn, 1566 Oak Ave., Evanston, IL. ("Subject Property") We are legal counsel to BCH1555, LLC, the owner of the property at 1555 Oak Ave. across the street from the Subject Property. 1555 Oak Avenue is within a five-hundred-foot (500') radius of the Subject Property, and BCH1555 LLC wishes to object to the special use under consideration.

Pursuant to Section 6-3-5-17 of the Evanston City Code, we hereby submit this written request for a continuance of the public hearing in this matter for the purpose of presenting evidence to rebut the testimony given by the applicant.

Section 6-3-5-17 of the Evanston City Code provides:

(A) Applicants for a special use (exclusive of planned developments) and owners of property within a five hundred (500) foot radius of the subject property, inclusive of public roads, streets, alleys and other public ways, shall have the following rights, in addition to any others they may possess by law, at any special use hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals:

- 1. To inspect all documents and material submitted as part of the application for the special use prior to the hearing.*
- 2. To reasonably examine all witnesses testifying.*
- 3. To present witnesses on their behalf.*

(B) Eligible property owners, as set forth above, who wish to object shall, upon written request, be granted one (1) continuance for the purpose of presenting evidence to rebut testimony given by the applicant. The date of such continued hearing shall be at the discretion of the board.



Michael M. Roth

cc: Melissa Koltz, Zoning Administrator



Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Land Use Commission Public Comment

1 message

noreply@formstack.com <noreply@formstack.com>

Wed, Nov 30, 2022 at 8:35 PM

Reply-To: noreply@formstack.com

To: mmjones@cityofevanston.org, kashbaugh@cityofevanston.org, mklotz@cityofevanston.org



Formstack Submission For: **Land Use Commission Public Comment**

Submitted at 11/30/22 9:35 PM

Name:	Nefrette Halim
Address of Residence:	
Phone:	
How would you like to make your public comment?:	In-person
Provide Written Comment Here:	
Agenda Item (or comment on item not on the agenda):	Margarita
Position on Agenda Item:	Opposed

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Melissa Klotz <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Margarita Inn

1 message

Newland Smith <farnssn@gmail.com>

Sat, Dec 31, 2022 at 11:09 AM

To: Daniel Biss <dbiss@cityofevanston.org>, Thomas Suffredin <tsuffredin@cityofevanston.org>, "mklotz@cityofevanston.org" <mklotz@cityofevanston.org>

Dear Mayor Biss and Administrator Klotz:

My name is Newland Smith. My wife and I have lived in the Sixth Ward since we moved back to Evanston in February 1969. In the early years of the homeless shelter in the basement of what then was First Baptist Church in downtown Evanston, I with one other person would take the night shift. I believe housing is a human right and homelessness is a scandal in the wealthiest country in the world. I urge you to support the use of the Margarita Inn as a shelter.

Sincerely,

Newland F. Smith, 3rd
2323 McDaniel Ave., Apt. 3133
847 530 3818