

## Concern Expressed

- Feel like victims — this wouldn't happen in Atherton.
- People will park in our neighborhood and there will be an increase in traffic in the neighborhood.
- Children won't be safe around residents.
- Fear of violence from residents.
- Personal bad experiences with mentally ill people.
- People will refuse treatment
- "Project's too dense for neighborhood"
- "Already have massage parlor, day workers, smoking, public urination, truck drivers cutting through neighborhood"
- "The MHA housing would be the straw that broke the camel's back" -- Neighborhood already in decline.
- "SAFETY, especially of children -2 day care centers, public pool"

## Our Response

Our properties enhance the neighborhood. They're beautifully designed and maintained.

Very few residents will have cars. At Belmont Apartments 5 residents have cars. At Cedar Street Apartments 3 residents have cars and there are 8 parking places. There will be a total of 15 parking spaces at the site which will likely be more than needed.

One of MHA's programs has met at the United Church of Christ in San Carlos for 40 years. The site is shared with a day-care/pre-school program and there have been no problems. None of our residents have been accused or charged with a crime against children.

We screen carefully. People with mental illness are much more likely to be victims of violence than the general population. We are open to having a community member participate in the screening committee.

We recognize that people have different experiences. However, in more than 50 years of providing services, the majority of our experiences with our clientele are positive. We work very hard to make personal connections with our clients and support them to get the treatment they need.

Prospective residents will be selected by BHRS due to their interest in treatment. There is a clear connection between accessing this housing and continuing need to participate in treatment.

Within a block of the site there are other multifamily housing developments with higher density.

At our other properties, our residents do not impact the neighborhood negatively. We have case managers and property managers who work closely with each resident. We will also have a 24 hour number that can be called if there is a problem.

Our beautiful property would signal a neighborhood on the ascent.

We conduct a criminal background check on prospective residents and would not let anyone in with a major criminal background, especially concerning children.

- "People wandering through the neighborhood"
 

That is not an issue in our other residential programs. The site was selected in part because of proximity to public transportation so residents can easily leave the area to work, school and appointments without needing a car. Case Managers also drive residents to many appointments.
- "LACK OF MONITORING of residents and medication compliance"
 

Although we don't mandate medication compliance, we have staff that visit the residents to make sure they're taking their medications. They inform the case managers and nurse if they see that someone is not taking their meds as prescribed. Our staff then takes it up with the resident right away. Most people want to feel better and feeling better is usually tied to taking medications as prescribed. Our staff will help them to do that and, as needed, work with their doctors to make the necessary adjustments to their medication regimens to ensure compliance.
- A facility like this belongs in a non-residential or more Industrial area.
 

Housing for low income individuals needs to be near public transportation, shopping, banking and other amenities or it impedes access. This is also a requirement of funders.
- "Conspiracy — No one notified neighborhood before property sold for facility."
 

MHA was one of three or four agencies which submitted bids for the site. The site was in foreclosure and had been listed on the MLS for several weeks before MHA submitted an offer.
- The building process will be noisy and compromise access to the neighborhood.
 

We will work with the contractor and community to keep the process smooth and not impinge on neighbors or access.
- The building will have communal bathrooms and kitchen, like a second rate hotel. It is not in keeping with the other housing in the area.
 

Each unit is a fully self-contained studio apartment **for a single resident** with full bathroom and kitchen. There will be a community room with a kitchen and bathroom as well as offices on the first floor.
- The crime rate in the neighborhood will increase
 

When we opened our Shelter on Spring Street in 1986 the crime rate went down due to the presence of staff, security cameras and street lighting. We will have staff during daytime, evenings and weekends as well as a resident manager who can be called upon after normal business hours. We will have exterior lighting as well as security cameras to ensure our resident's safety and the safety of the surrounding area.

- Why here?

Finding a site that is in a suitable location that is of sufficient size, close to amenities, and affordable in San Mateo County is extremely difficult. We had realtors looking throughout San Mateo County and had investigated sites in San Carlos, San Mateo and Millbrae but they were either too expensive, too remote or already under contract.