



Monroe County Legislature

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Zoning Office c/o Planning Commission
30 Church St. Rm. 125B
Rochester, NY 14614

City Planning Commission Members:

This is a letter in support of the application for a facility operated by Monroe County that would serve unhoused families at 204 S. Plymouth Ave.

This 58-bedroom shelter with kitchen facilities and programmatic capacity is sorely needed, as Monroe County placed more than 600 families in temporary housing last year. The County currently shelters many families in motels that often lack access to stoves and refrigerators, and are not close to schools, shopping, and employment opportunities. Motels are not suitable places for families. And while shelter facilities are not ideal, families experiencing homelessness will have access to more support, including meals, transportation, and counseling.

As a lifelong city resident who lived in Corn Hill for more than a decade, I understand resident concerns about the stability of their neighborhood. The only thing that will likely change for Corn Hill neighbors is seeing more moms and dads walk around with their children.

Two weeks ago, a father asked for my help after sleeping in a park with his two teenage children. When we think about homelessness, we don't often picture families. But they are in our neighborhoods already, and they need our compassion and our help.

Sincerely,

Rachel Barnhart – Legislator District 21