Outlook

Notification of Men's Winter Overflow Shelter Location

From Brenda Konkel <brenda@madisonstreetmedicine.org>
Date Sat 10/31/2026 8:01 AM
To Madison, Sabrina <district17@cityofmadison.com>
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3 attachments (645 KB)
Neighbor flyer (2).pdf; Guest Flyer - Mens Shelter How to Get a Bed (08-26).docx (2).pdf; _Overflow Shelter Program Core Operations Manual 10.25.26.docx (2).pdf;

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Dear Alder Madison,

As you may know, securing a location for the men's winter overflow shelter has been an extraordinary challenge. After contacting dozens of churches, exploring City and County properties, and researching numerous privately owned properties, we were unable to secure a site for the November 1–March 31 shelter season. Potential locations were ruled out due to existing uses, building code requirements, and zoning restrictions.

Given these challenges and the approaching November 1 opening date, we had to pivot to a hotel-based solution for November and December. This option will cost approximately $300,000 to provide 50 rooms for two months for men who are on the waitlist for the Porchlight shelter on Bartillon

We explored six different hotels. Two options referred to us through ReloShare were ultimately rejected by the owners and a third option unexpectedly became unavailable. With the shelter contract requiring services to begin November 1, we continued working to secure a viable location as quickly as possible. We were not able to finalize an agreement with a hotel until last night.

We are writing to inform you that the hotel we have secured is located in your district:

- **Hotel:** Comfort Inn and Suites
- **Address:** 4822 E Washington Ave, Madison, WI 53704
- **Anticipated opening date:** Thursday, November 5th, 2026

We apologize for the short notice. We recognize the importance of consulting with elected officials, neighbors, and businesses before establishing a shelter in a community. Unfortunately, the urgency of securing a location for this winter, combined with the limited options available, required us to move quickly and did not allow sufficient time for the community outreach we would have preferred. However, we are committed to meeting with community stakeholders on a regular basis as frequently as needed to

provide information and address any concerns. Please let us know if there are groups you recommend we meet with and if you would like to be a part of those meetings.

Attached are the shelter policies, client referral process and relevant contact information for questions or concerns.

We are also providing this information to the following individuals and organizations:

- County Board Supervisor Tommy Rylander
- County Executive Melissa Agard
- Captain Jamar Gary, North Police District
- Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
- James O'Keefe, Community Development Division Director
- Nathan Noordhoek & Nick Petrulis, Greater Sandburg Neighborhood Association
- Homeless Service Providers

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the shelter, answer any questions, and address any concerns you may have. We understand the importance of maintaining open communication with elected officials and the surrounding community, and we would appreciate the opportunity to share more about the shelter's operations, policies, and plans for responding to any issues that may arise.

Madison Street Medicine is committed to communicating with the surrounding community and responding to questions or concerns. If there are additional stakeholders you believe we should contact, please let us know so we can ensure they receive this information as well.

Thank you for your understanding as we work to provide shelter for men experiencing homelessness during the winter months.

Sincerely,

Brenda K Konkel

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