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To whom it may concern;

I have recently heard opposition to the purchase of the Best Western property by the County for transitional housing. Unfortunately, I can't agree with that opposition.

I'd like to commend The County for finding an existing location that suits the needs of our community members who are struggling. The Best Western is located in an area that allows people to get their groceries, visit doctors, and receive the support they need to get back on their feet.

I also feel that this is a more sustainable model. The county isn't proposing free housing. There is a buy-in for the people using this facility. This housing option allows people most at risk to transition into permanent housing without taking away their pride. In Matt Levin's article "Converting a motel to homeless housing, step by step", Levin talks about how residents take pride in the space they are staying in. The feelings of pride and safety just aren't there in shelters that kick you out by eight every morning and may not have a bed for you when you come back in the evening.

In addition, The County has very skillfully found funding for this endeavor. That is so much better than another bond or tax.

There is no easy solution when dealing with transitional housing. However, this proposal is by far the best answer to a growing problem that I have heard in a while.

Thank you for your time,