

Testimony to the Gladstone Planning Commission regarding the Webster Road Project

My name is Ellen Burns. I live at 7550 Charolais Ct, Gladstone OR 97027

Good evening, members of the Planning Commission.

I am here in support of the conditional use application for 18000 Webster Road for the purpose of providing permanent supportive housing for very low-income seniors. I am a Registered Nurse with a BA in Gerontology. The health and safety of older community members is a major concern of mine. Without a safe, stable place to call home, it's nearly impossible to focus on basic health and medical needs. We know that housing is a key driver of health. This is especially true for our seniors, who are often dealing with chronic diseases and other complex health issues. Elders are particularly vulnerable to the high prices in the housing market because many rely solely on Social Security. If they have a savings account, they are getting minimal return on their resources. The added stress of insecure housing takes a toll on their physical, mental, and emotional health.

Proposals like the Webster Road project are essential to addressing the critically needed supply of affordable housing. Gladstone has little availability of buildable land. Upgrading and using this empty building for housing one of our vulnerable populations solves two problems for Gladstone, by renovating a decaying building in the city and addressing Gladstone's housing inequity. The location is well suited for elders with public transportation and walkability.

Partnering with the Clackamas County Housing Authority for this project is a win/win for supportive housing. The Housing Authority has experience and expertise in providing supportive housing. The City of Gladstone is relieved of the financial burden of finding a solution for housing inequity on its own.

I urge your support of the Webster Road application.

Thank you.