



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WPUSD Files Legal Action Regarding The Gathering Inn Respite Facility

Lincoln, CA, September 6, 2024 — The Western Placer Unified School District (WPUSD) has taken legal action in response to the recent establishment of a medical respite center by The Gathering Inn (TGI) at 1660 Third Street, Lincoln. The facility, intended to house up to 100 individuals experiencing homelessness, is located within 400 yards of Glen Edwards Middle School, 600 yards of First Street Elementary School, and less than a mile from Creekside Oaks Elementary School and Lincoln High School.

WPUSD has significant concerns regarding the proximity of the center to its schools and the potential health and safety risks it poses to students, especially during school hours. The district is also troubled by the lack of communication and transparency from TGI, as the district and City of Lincoln were only made aware of the project location after the property sale was finalized on August 14, 2024.

"WPUSD believes that community engagement and transparency are essential when projects of this nature are proposed near schools. Unfortunately, we were not given any opportunity to provide input or voice our concerns," stated Board President Jason Price. "Our decision to pursue legal action is driven by our responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff."

While WPUSD acknowledges the importance of supporting unhoused individuals in the region, the district emphasizes that its legal action is not a reflection of a lack of compassion. Instead, it represents a commitment to safeguarding students and ensuring transparency in decisions that impact the school community.

Concerns Regarding the Respite Facility:

- Proximity to school campuses
- Increased potential for unsafe situations during school hours
- Lack of transparency and community outreach in the project's planning

WPUSD reiterates its dedication to the safety of students and staff while remaining committed to upholding transparency in community projects. The district seeks a collaborative approach to ensure all concerns are addressed.