



## **Pinkney Neighborhood Association**

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Public statement regarding the planned Pallet Shelter Village at 256 North Michigan Street  
April 15, 2023

The Pinkney Neighborhood Association (PNA) strongly agrees with efforts in our community to support those experiencing houselessness and encourages development of well-designed plans to help houseless individuals and families transition to housing.

PNA believes those efforts should be based on both local and regional strategies to ensure no one community shoulders more of the work to help the houseless as a result of other communities' failure to make reasonable efforts in this regard.

PNA believes that work to help houseless individuals and families should be multifaceted, including but not limited to housing support, mental health support, access to basic health care, work force preparedness, job placement opportunities, and true collaborative input from the houseless community, houseless community advocates, and any affected neighborhood.

PNA believes that although temporary shelter for houseless individuals and families may appropriately be part of a plan to help the houseless population, PNA continues to oppose the City of Lawrence's planned placement of a Pallet shelter village at 256 N. Michigan Street. This location, within a neighborhood and adjacent to privately owned wooded and open land, presents safety and privacy concerns for both the immediate neighbors and for the shelter village residents. The shelter village residents are likely to have their attempt to make changes in their lives disrupted by a large houseless population in the nearby wooded area, especially if some of that population migrates closer to the area of the shelter village. If that happens, it would also impact the surrounding neighbors from the perspective of safety and trash.

Additionally, PNA is concerned for the residents of the shelter village with regard to the potential fire risk of Pallet brand shelters, the crowded layout of the village on draft plans provided by the City, the distance of this location from any retail business with basic food and daily living supplies, and it is unknown whether there is good access to transportation and potential sites of employment.

PNA further is very concerned that the City continues to disproportionately choose locations in eastern and northern Lawrence neighborhoods for projects such as the shelter village, without adequate prior and effective communication with those neighborhoods, and without sharing such burdens and experiences with other areas of the Lawrence community.

While continuing to have serious concerns regarding the placement of the Pallet shelter village on North Michigan Street, the PNA will work cooperatively with the City and other entities to ensure that this project is as successful as possible and provides for the safety of shelter village residents and the surrounding neighborhood population. PNA's cooperation with the City and other entities regarding the shelter village is not to be considered an endorsement by PNA for the placement of this project nor the specific decision by the City to choose Pallet brand shelters.