

Dear City Council,

\*\*\* This letter has been signed on to by 50+ local supporters since this was initially submitted on July 24th with 8 supporters \*\*\*

I am writing to you today as a resident of the westside of Colorado Springs in support of the Launchpad supportive youth housing project and against the appeal - APPL-23-0002 . I believe that this project is essential to providing much-needed services to our community's homeless youth, and I urge you to uphold the original, unanimous decision of the Planning Commission, to reject this appeal and approve the project.

The appeal of the Launchpad project is based on concerns about the project's location, height, and density. However, I believe that these concerns are unfounded. The project is located in an area that is already zoned for high-density (R5) development, and the building height and density are consistent with the surrounding area.

I have seen firsthand the challenges that homeless youth face. I have met young people who are struggling to find a safe place to sleep, who are going hungry, and who are not getting the education or mental health care they need. The Launchpad project would provide these young people with a stable place to live, access to food and other resources, and support services to help them get back on their feet.

I am also concerned that the appeal is motivated by prejudice against homeless youth. The appellants have raised concerns about "homeless adults next to a nursery school" and "increased drug use and dealing." However, these concerns are not based on any evidence, and to the contrary Ruth Washburn, the "nursery school" being referenced, is supportive of this project. The Launchpad project will provide supportive services to homeless youth, including mental health care and substance abuse treatment. These services will help to reduce the risk of crime and drug use in the area.

I urge you to uphold the original decision to deny this appeal and allow the Launchpad project to progress. This project is essential to providing much-needed services to our community's homeless youth, would make a real difference in the lives of many young people, and would add vitality to a long vacant block of the Westside.