

Elmhurst United Newsletter

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The mission of Elmhurst United is to support Elmhurst residents in their efforts to decrease and eventually eliminate its homeless shelters through transitioning the homeless from shelters to homes while protecting the rights of the constituents and preserving the integrity of the Elmhurst community.



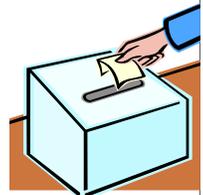
What can we all do to help stop the warehousing of the homeless in shelters?

Unfortunately, closing the Pan Am shelter will not happen overnight. We will need to continue prodding our elected officials, speak out at town hall/community meetings and most importantly, VOTE. **All** of us in the Elmhurst community need to participate and work together to accomplish this goal. If we stand by and do nothing or depend on our neighbors to fight this cause, the City will think it is ok to dump more shelters in Elmhurst. Let your politicians know, it is unacceptable that they can open a 200+ room shelter and cram homeless families, who do not have anywhere to go, into a single room with little hope of finding an apartment to live in.

You can help by doing just a few of the items below:

- ✦ Handwritten or typed letters to elected officials.
- ✦ Contact elected officials to let them know your concerns. Call often!!.
- ✦ Register to vote. Elected officials who have done nothing to support your cause and have not earned your vote should not remain in office. If they are running uncontested, you can decline to vote for them by skipping over their name.
- ✦ Call 311 if you have loss of city services, e.g. water, sewer, garbage collection, etc... Report any activity that looks unsafe at the Pan Am or there is loud noise, loitering, fighting, garbage, graffiti, or Pot smoking.

- ✦ Report **all** crime including minor ones. to the police
- ✦ Visit social media sites to express you views about the Pan Am homeless shelter.
- ✦ MOST importantly VOTE. On Nov 4, Election Day, we need all Elmhurst residents eligible to vote to go out and VOTE. City Hall can't hear you, if you do not vote.. The turnout in the Elmhurst area is embarrassingly low,, especially in this non-presidential year. Did you know, it is the state, city and local elected officials who make the greatest political impact on society. Help this cause by going out and VOTE



Summary of the Winners and Losers:



Winners:

- ◇ Landlords (Berger) and Samaritan Village collects \$3,000+ per room (over \$8,000,000 dollars/Year)
- ◇ Dept of Homeless Services (DHS) – They have job security as long as there is a homeless population.
- ◇ Politicians .

Losers:

- ◇ Homeless residents – they are crammed into a small room, living closely with other homeless residents they do not know. Since there are no background checks or even identity checks required for admittance, they live in fear of who their neighbors are. The Pan Am shelter has no kitchens so the residents are forced to eat microwave-able or take-out food.
- ◇ Elmhurst Residents – essential services (Police, Fire, Hospital, School) are exhausted because 800+ new residents are packed into a hotel with no new resources allocated to the Community.
- ◇ Taxpayers- higher taxes because the city over paid (\$3,000+ per room/month)

News Update: Website
 Elmhurstunited.org
www.cometcivic.com

Volunteers Requested:

Join Elmhurst United by sending us an email. Please provide your name, address, EMAIL, telephone.



It is costing taxpayers approximately \$3000-4000 each month to house a homeless family at the Pan Am?

The \$3000+ cost does not include storage of their personal items including furniture, clothing etc (that's extra, and the City, hence you the taxpayer, is required to pay.

No background or criminal checks are made at the shelter.

The 6 months temporary emergency order should expire around December 2014. It is important that area residents call their elected officials to get constant updates and to find out what is being done about the shelter. (call often).

The Pan Am Shelter currently is housing over 600 homeless residents. With a capacity of 800 residents.

On average it takes Dept of Homeless Services one year before they can find an apartment for their resident.

At the 6/30/14 public hearing, the Dept. of Homeless Services agreed to create a Community Advisory Board. Two monthly meetings have been held. The third one was cancelled. Responses to community members questions were answered superficially and can be found on www.nyc.gov/html/qnscb4/html/home/home.shtml, click on DHS response to PanAm questions.



Where Bloomberg offered shelter to roughly 40% of applicants, de Blasio's team boosted the acceptance rate to 49% or more, hitting a high of nearly 57% in March.

Crime in the Neighborhood



Report all Crime to the POLICE and email us at elmhurstunited@gmail.com so we can document and track these incidences.

⇒ Oct 1, individual was spotted taking packages from the mail truck. A neighborhood resident gave chase, as the perpetrator ran into the Pan Am Shelter. A resident demanded that he return the package to the mailman. The thief was reported to the police.

As we get close to year end, it is important that we all look out for our mail. Not only is there an increase in package deliveries, sensitive documents (i.e. 1099 tax forms, year end financial statements etc) are all being mailed at this time.

⇒ A student from IS5, claimed a man groped her on her way to school. It was reported that she later changed her story to a drunk man put his hand around her neck.

The frightened victim probably felt that any drunk man putting his arm around her neck is a form of groping. She was able to kick him and make a run for it. Kudos to the spunky young lady. Who knows what would have happened if she did not do what she did.

There has been an increase in intoxicated men in the neighborhood. It is important that the police are called. We need to continue to call if nothing is done about it. Take down the report # and remember to email us so we can track it.

⇒ A delivery man dropping off supplies to the Grand Ave Supermarket dropped a \$100 bill on the floor. A black male slid over and picked up the money. An area resident spotted this, and demanded that the money be returned to the rightful owner. The suspect refused to return the money, and threatened the area resident. The police were called. The perpetrator

ran out of the store. The police did not take a report as per the reporting police officer "unless someone was shot in the head, no report is necessary". Do not accept this type of behavior from any police officer. If you feel threatened you need to call. If there is unprofessional behavior from the police officer, report it to his superior, and email us too.

We need volunteers for the Elmhurst Neighborhood Block Watch. Sign up now to join. Help us keep your family safe and secure. Send us an email at : panamprotest@gmail.com