

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

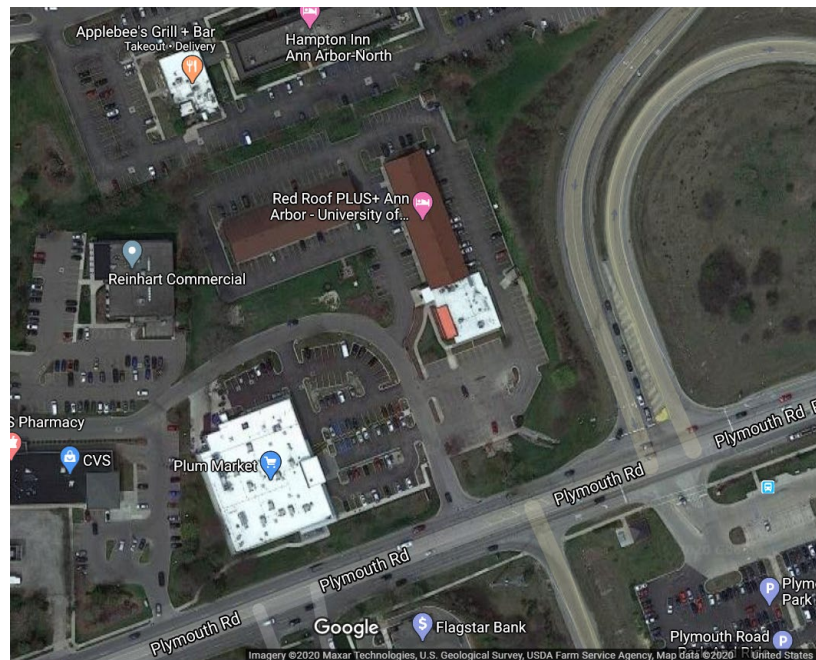
FROM: Brett Lenart, Planning Manager

DATE: May 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Use of Red Roof Plus+ North, 3621 Plymouth Road, for Expanded Shelter

At its May 5, 2020 meeting, the Planning Commission made a recommendation on the proposed rezoning and site plan petitions for MMG Plymouth Road Mixed Use, 3611-3621 Plymouth Road. During its discussions, it was noted that the Red Roof Plus+ inn is currently being used for expanded shelter during the Governor's Stay Safe, Stay Home executive orders. The Planning Commission requested an update and information on how the proposed rezoning might affect the expanded shelter use be provided to City Council.

The following information was provided by the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development on Friday, May 8, 2020.



### **Which building(s) are currently being used/proposed to be used?**

The Red Roof Plus+ North at 3621 Plymouth Road has two connected buildings, almost attached to the former big boy restaurant, and two buildings that are further back and parallel to Plymouth Road.

- The eastern buildings have been used for housing the homeless population since April 1.
- The western buildings have been used for isolation and quarantine space as needed. The county just finalized a contract [week of May 4, 2020] with a separate hotel to move all the I/Q rooms to a different location. We then expect the use the entire hotel to support expanded homeless shelter, with that transition expected next week [week of May 11, 2020].

**How long has Red Roof Plus+ North been in use for expanded shelter, and for what term is it anticipated to be in use?**

- The County contracted with RRI North for the use of the entire hotel for one month starting April 1, 2020, with the option to extend weekly. We are currently [as of May 8, 2020] in that extension period and continue to invoke the weekly extension. Our current planning would have us utilizing the hotel through the summer (at least). One of our concerns is that if there is a resurgence of the virus in coming months, it could spread rapidly through a congregate homeless setting. Providing individual rooms to as many clients as possible will limit spread of COVID-19.

**What is the capacity of Red Roof Plus+ North?**

- SAWC is using two rooms in the eastern building for staff – and the other 48 are occupied by SAWC clients.
- In the western building, it's expected that 1-2 rooms again would be used for 24/7 staff on the premises – and the other 52 would be available for clients.

**What is the cost for expanded shelter use at Red Roof Plus+ North? How does the cost relate to the additional funds approved by City Council [on May 4, 2020]?**

- The County initially contracted the entire hotel for Isolation and quarantine. As such the contract was \$50 a room [per day], with no expectation of daily cleaning or refilling of supplies
- In addition to the room costs, SAWC is providing basic supplies such as toilet paper, soap, towels and at times linens. They are also handling laundry for residents, and providing other incidental supplies.
- Food costs for 3 meals a day are \$25 per person, based on a County Contract with Eastern Michigan University to provide food. This also includes supplemental snacks if needed, and/or to support specific dietary conditions.

## Extended Shelter at Red Roof Plus+ North

- SAWC has been providing 24/7 staffing, including three shifts of 2-3 individuals daily. There is a manager on-call for all five sites, currently [as of May 8, 2020], as well as case management. This has been a significant increase for SAWC, along with transportation for clients and the supplies mentioned above.
- County and SAWC staff are tracking expenses and taking precautions to ensure all expenses are FEMA eligible (to the best of our ability). FEMA match (25% of costs) can include in-kind support such as volunteer hours and services, which are also being tracked. The City support will likely cover a mixture of FEMA eligible and ineligible costs including covering a portion of the 25% match requirements. We're intending to try and balance the expenditures from City, County and SAWC.

### **What has been the experience of working with Red Roof Plus+ North?**

- From a contracting perspective, the owner was willing to help and the contract was set up and executed quickly. On the day to day management side, the County shifted the use of the hotel from exclusively Isolation and quarantine, to use of one building as I/Q and the other for SAWC clients.

It took some time for the hotel management to adjust to hosting Shelter clients. Some on-site managers were very helpful, and others provided basic services. In time, the hotel management allowed Shelter staff to use on-site laundry facilities, which has been helpful. SAWC does still provide towels, toilet paper, soap, and cleaning supplies to clients. Laundry is also coordinated through SAWC staff.