

From: [Gail Bliss](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: The New Men's Shelter
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:04:05 PM

You don't often get email from gail3511@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear CDBG Members

I'm writing to ask you to come up with a safe place for the 100+ men who will lose a safe overnight location once the new shelter opens. When we started building the purpose built shelter, 250 seemed like a good size. Addressing this problem seems squarely in the CDBG's purview.

There is a proposal to create a camping location, but that isn't moving forward. Please pressure the county to release that RFP. Perhaps the land at Dairy Drive could be considered. There must be a better way of addressing this problem than harassing folks with nowhere to go. This is a problem already, and will compound the day the new shelter opens. This is an obvious tidal wave headed our way.

I know that Zeier needs some plumbing repairs. That seems like another possibility in the medium term. I understand the emergency overflow shelter contract for 2026-27 has another location, but given how fast the homeless population is growing, this may be necessary for 2027-28.

Gail Bliss
5309 Regent St
Madison WI 53705
608-231-3511

From: [Alex Saloutos](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Cc: [Jones, Angela](#); [Glenn, Carmella](#); [Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina](#); [jennifer.hagner.campbell@gmail.com](#); [megan.miller@uwalumni.com](#); [tiffany@thealvaradogroup.com](#); [mphair95@gmail.com](#); [meghanroed@gmail.com](#); [Schmedicke, David](#); [Okeefe, James](#); [Guequierre, John](#); [Matthews, Julia](#); [Harrington-McKinney, Barbara](#); [Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina](#)
Subject: <no subject>
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 3:22:00 PM
Attachments: [260507 MEMORANDUM LEGISTAR92946 CDBGCOMMITTEE.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from asaloutos@tds.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Members of the CDBG Committee,

Attached are my public comments on Legistar File No. 92946, agenda item 2 for tonight. The memo identifies missing financial information in the legislative file and recommends specific actions the Committee should take before advancing the resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letter 'A' with a horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alex Saloutos
Phone: (608) 345-9009
Email: asaloutos@tds.net

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: May 7, 2026

To: Community Development Block Grant Committee

CC: Dina Nina Martinez-Rutherford, John P. Guequierre, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Julia Matthews, David Schmiedicke, Jim O'Keefe

From: Alex Saloutos

RE: **Intergovernmental Agreement for Operations of the Men's Homeless Shelter at 1904 Bartillon Drive (District 12), Legistar File No. [92946](#)**

I submit these public comments for your consideration on the above-referenced legislation, agenda item number 2 on your May 7, 2026, agenda. This legislation approves the Intergovernmental Agreement governing the 2026 operations of the shelter on Bartillon Drive that will house up to 250 homeless men. It authorizes the city to accept up to \$1,148,000 from Dane County, and amends the Community Development Division's 2026 adopted operating budget to recognize those funds.

SUMMARY

I support the Bartillon Shelter and the partnership between the City of Madison and Dane County to operate it, so long as costs are fairly allocated between the two and we have plans that will meet the needs of all of our homeless population. I ask the Committee not to advance the resolution until the file contains the financial information necessary for an informed decision. The Committee should also recommend removing the standing authorization for the mayor to renew such agreements indefinitely.

The fiscal note attached to the resolution discloses only the county contribution. It does not state the total cost of operating the shelter in 2026, the city's share, the amount appropriated for shelter operations in the city's adopted budget, the methodology used to set the county's contribution at \$1,078,681, or the city's exposure under Section IV of the IGA, which makes the city responsible for any costs that exceed the county's contribution. The resolution also pre-authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to renew this agreement in future years without separate Council action.

ANALYSIS

All of our unhoused neighbors deserve safe, adequate housing. None of the concerns in this memorandum is about whether the shelter should open or whether the city should accept county funds for operations. They are about whether this Committee, the Finance Committee, the Common Council, and the public have been given the financial information necessary to evaluate this legislation on its merits.

The fiscal note is incomplete.

The fiscal note attached to Legistar 92946 describes only the county's contribution. It omits:

- The total cost to operate the shelter in 2026.
- The percentage of costs paid by the county.
- The city's share and whether it has been budgeted.

- The methodology used to determine the county's portion of the costs.

According to the Government Finance Officers Association, the primary purpose of a fiscal note is "to provide the most accurate estimate possible of the expenditure and revenue impacts the proposed legislation would create."¹ The fiscal note for Legistar 92946 does not meet that standard.

Without a clear accounting of the full annual operating cost, the allocation of those costs between the City and County, and the rationale for that allocation, the Committee cannot determine whether the arrangement is equitable or in the City's best interest. Approving this resolution without transparent cost-sharing details risks committing the City to an open-ended fiscal obligation that may be unfair or unsustainable.

It is the Committee's responsibility to ensure that all relevant information, especially regarding fiscal impacts and cost sharing, is available before making a recommendation. Directing staff to provide this information is not only within the Committee's authority but is also essential to fulfilling its oversight role and ensuring sound decision-making on behalf of the public.

The city's exposure is not disclosed.

Section IV of the IGA states: "City acknowledges that the County Contribution is not intended to fund the entirety of the costs associated with Services. In the event the City exhausts the County Contribution before the end of the Term, the City agrees that it shall remain responsible for ensuring that Services are provided to Shelter guests every day of the week, including holidays, by its contracted providers." The city is therefore responsible for any operating costs that exceed the \$1,078,681 cap. The fiscal note does not estimate that exposure. The IGA does not cap it. This Committee is being asked to recommend approval of an arrangement whose cost to the city is not disclosed in the legislative file.

The standing authorization removes Council oversight.

The resolution closes with a clause that "authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to renew such agreements with Dane County, in forms approved by the City Attorney and Risk Manager, subject to the receipt of each year's funds and their inclusion in subsequent Community Development Division budgets." This delegates to the Mayor and the City Clerk the authority to renew this agreement in 2027 and each year thereafter, so long as the county provides funds and those funds appear in the CDD budget. The current IGA is a one-year agreement. Future agreements could allocate costs differently, change shelter policies, or adjust reporting requirements. None of that would come back to the Council, this Committee, or the public. You should recommend removing this clause.

The capacity gap is not addressed.

The new shelter holds 250 men, but the temporary shelter on Zeier Road has accommodated more than 400 men on a single night. Bartillon is a partial solution to a larger problem. The legislative file does not propose, schedule, or fund a path to a system that serves the men the new building will not. As of this writing, no public document with a budget, a timeline, an operator, and a site closes the gap. The Committee should flag this gap for the Finance Committee and the Common Council and ask staff to bring back a plan.

Questions sent to the Finance Director on May 7.

This morning, I sent the City Finance Director, David Schmiedicke, a list of the questions a complete fiscal note would have answered: the full 2026 operating budget for the shelter, including any planned 24-hour operations; the city's share of those costs; the amount appropriated for shelter

¹ Deepayan Debnath, Matthew Lue, and Stacey Weidemann, "The Art and Necessity of Writing Fiscal Notes," Government Finance Review (April 2025), Government Finance Officers Association, <https://www.gfoa.org/materials/gfr042025-fiscalnotes>.

operations in the 2026 adopted city budget and the budget line where it is recorded; the methodology used to arrive at the \$1,078,681 figure; and the city's projected exposure under Section IV of the IGA. The email also asked whether he would support written standards for what fiscal notes should contain. As of this submission, no response.

RECOMMENDATION

The CDBG Committee should approve a resolution that:

- Directs staff to supplement the legislative file with the financial information identified in this memorandum, including the total operating cost, the city's share, the budgeted funding source, and the methodology for determining county contributions.
- Requests that the Council re-refer consideration of Legistar 92946 to the Committee's next meeting, after staff has provided the requested information.
- Recommends striking the clause authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to renew this agreement in future years, and requiring that each annual agreement return to the Common Council for separate approval.
- Directs staff to develop a time-specific, financially sustainable plan to close the capacity gap between the 250-bed Bartillon shelter and the demonstrated peak demand.