

From: [Kathleen Camilla King](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: What Are Your Plans?!
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:46:11 PM

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intergovernmental agreement for men's shelter

There are fewer beds than needed.

What are your plans for the rest?

What are your plans?!

Kathleen Camilla King

1110 Magnolia Lane

Madison Wisconsin

53713

From: [Alex Saloutos](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Bartillon Mens Shelter, Legistar ID No. 92946, agenda item 43
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:25:19 PM
Attachments: [260519 MEMORANDUM LEGISTAR92946 COMMONCOUNCIL.pdf](#)

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Alders:

Attached are my public comments on the intergovernmental agreement for the Bartillon Mens Shelter (agenda item 43) for tonight's meeting. These supplement the previous comments I submitted to the CDBG Committee. I'm sorry, but I won't be able to attend the council meeting tonight to speak on this.

Cheers,

--

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 19, 2026
To: Common Council
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, which is item 43 on tonight's agenda. CDBG and Finance reviewed it and recommended approval. A substitute resolution was prepared on May 19 to accommodate County procedures and ensure the transfer of all County funds. The substitute does not address the missing financial information in the fiscal note, the standing authorization for the Mayor and City Clerk to renew the agreement in future years, or the agreement's one-year term.

SUMMARY

I support the Bartillon Shelter and the City-County partnership operating it, so long as costs are fairly allocated between the two and we have plans that will meet the needs of all of our unhoused neighbors. The Council should not approve this resolution until the fiscal note contains the basic information a fiscal note for this kind of legislation should contain. The Council should also strike the clause authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to renew this agreement in future years, direct staff to negotiate a multi-year agreement for future shelter operations, and require any renewal to come back through the Common Council and the relevant committees and commissions for review and approval.

ANALYSIS

The Bartillon Shelter is a needed facility. Unhoused men in Dane County deserve safe, adequate, and dignified shelter. The concerns below are not about whether the shelter should open. They are about whether the Council and the public have the information needed to evaluate this resolution.

The original fiscal note provided only the most basic information.

The original fiscal note said, in substance, that the City would accept up to \$1,148,000 from Dane County and use it to operate the shelter. That's not a fiscal note. It is a transmittal. It should include the shelter's total operating costs, the sources of all funds needed to operate the shelter, how the City and County shares were determined, and the City's financial exposure for budget overruns.

The updated fiscal note still omits the basic information.

After I raised these issues on May 7, the fiscal note was updated to identify the City's \$1.5 million operating contract with Porchlight, Inc., and an additional \$200,000 for utilities and maintenance, and to attach CDD Director Jim O'Keefe's March 10 memo. O'Keefe submitted a second memo on May 19 with more details on County allocations. Those additions are improvements. They still do not provide what a fiscal note for this resolution should provide: the total cost to operate the Bartillon shelter, all sources of funds necessary to operate it, how the City and County shares were determined, and why the City is responsible for 100% of any cost overruns. O'Keefe's May 19 memo refers to "Porchlight's projected \$3.5 million operating budget" and uses "budget" and "Porchlight's contract" interchangeably for the Bartillon shelter. Those are not the same thing. The cost of the operator's contract is one input to the total cost of operating the facility. The total includes the City's \$200,000 for utilities and maintenance, which O'Keefe's memo confirms is not in Porchlight's budget,

and may include other costs the City bears as owner of the building. The legislative file does not provide a total. The two O'Keefe memos list County funds piecemeal across the temporary Zeier Road shelter and the new Bartillon shelter without clearly separating income and expenses for each. The resolution authorizes acceptance of up to \$1,148,000, but the revised IGA in the file caps the County contribution at \$1,064,203, with a separate County Board action potentially restoring up to \$1,078,681. Even the headline number does not reconcile. A fiscal note should provide the context. It should not be a game of hide-and-seek.

The shelter does not meet the need, and no plan closes the gap.

The new shelter holds 250 men. During peak use, the temporary shelter housed more than 400 men. While Dane County has set aside \$440,000 for a temporary overflow shelter, the combined capacity of Bartillon and Dane County's planned overflow facility still falls short of demonstrated peak demand. No public document with a budget, a timeline, an operator, and a site closes the gap. Safe, adequate shelter for our most vulnerable neighbors is a more basic municipal obligation than many of the programs the City has prioritized. We need a plan to house our unhoused neighbors now.

The renewal clause remains, and a one-year term is too short.

The substitute resolution retains the clause that authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to renew this agreement in 2027 and each year thereafter without separate Council action. The Council should strike that clause. Future renewals should return to the Common Council and the relevant committees and commissions for review and approval. A one-year term also does not make sense for a service of this kind or for the operation of a facility of this kind. It creates uncertainty for the operator and for City staff who must negotiate and administer the agreement annually. A multi-year IGA, with a term of three to five years, would provide budget stability while still preserving oversight at the end of each term. The Council should direct staff to negotiate a multi-year framework for future agreements.

RECOMMENDATION

The Common Council should:

- Refer the resolution back to staff with direction to supplement the fiscal note with the total cost to operate the Bartillon shelter (not just the operator's contract), all sources of operating funds, the methodology used to determine the City and County shares, and an estimate of the City's exposure under Section IV of the IGA.
- Amend the resolution to strike the clause authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to renew the agreement in future years, direct staff to negotiate a multi-year IGA with a term of three to five years for future shelter operations, and require any renewal to return through the Common Council and the relevant committees and commissions for review and approval.
- Direct staff to bring back a time-specific, financially sustainable plan to close the capacity gap between the new shelter and the peak demand demonstrated.