



March 20, 2017

Our city is facing a significant challenge. The Salt Lake County mayor has selected three sites in our city boundaries for a homeless shelter. The state legislature passed a bill giving him that authority. Everyone thought the various cities to be considered would be part of the process.

As it turns out, we were left standing on the outside and were surprised when three locations were announced for our city and two in South Salt Lake City. No other cities were selected. The only input allowed is at some public meetings at the capitol and finally one here in West Valley at the Cultural Celebration Center on 3100 South on Tuesday night.

We do not know why all the sites are in the two cities least able to afford it. We do not know why other cities in the valley were not included. We are doing all we can to put this ill conceived process on hold and to bring transparency and openness to the selection of one final site where it will be built. We need the help of everyone in the city to express their concerns.

If you cannot attend the final open house Tuesday, a public hearing will be held on Wednesday at the capitol after which Mayor Ben McAdams will announce which site the new homeless shelter will be built. You can make comments online at [www.homelessfacility.org](http://www.homelessfacility.org) as well.

Please do not be deceived by the fancy new name and the promise that it will not bring crime and additional costs to our city. If that were true it could stay right where it is and it would not impact the area nor the businesses around the current facility on Rio Grande Street in Salt Lake City.

We already do more than most of the cities in the valley and even in our state by taking care of many lower income and struggling families and individuals. Don't send a problem to our city that will negatively impact us for generations to come. Let your voice be heard.

Ron Bigelow  
West Valley City Mayor