

From: [Alisha Zhao](#)
To: [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Cova Non-Congregate Shelter Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 9:50:12 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-slib44zx.png](#)
[Outlook-ox23in20.png](#)
[Outlook-aild03qt.png](#)
[Outlook-pfpvq4zu.png](#)
[Outlook-amhijogm.png](#)
[Outlook-axnv0vz4.png](#)

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Hello Brent and the Budget & Finance Committee,

My name is Alisha Zhao, and I am the Policy and Organizing Manager at Compass Family Services. I urge you to vote to extend the non-congregate shelter lease at the Cova Hotel. As of this morning, there are 469 families on the shelter waiting list. There is a clear shortage of shelter beds, and failing to extend the lease will only increase the number of families acutely in need of shelter.

Moreover, I have heard repeatedly from clients at Compass about the importance of having non-congregate shelter options, particularly for women and children, as well as those fleeing domestic violence. Some families worry about their health and safety in congregate shelters and therefore avoid them. Non-congregate shelters are a necessary option for these families to feel safe and secure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alisha



Alisha Zhao
[She/Her \(Why pronouns?\)](#)
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From: [Madonna Caballes](#)
To: [Monica Harlow](#); [Guled Muse](#)
Cc: [Ceedral Armstrong](#)
Subject: FW: The Cova
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:54:13 AM

Here is one of the testimonials from a couples Ms. Cassandra Watson and Mr. Walter Watson

From: Walternccassandra Watson <walternccassandrawatson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 10:31 AM
To: Madonna Caballes <mcaballes@ecs-sf.org>
Subject: The Cova

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

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To whom it may concern.

Thank you for all of your help. My wife and I have been blessed with this room here. Who knows where we would be if it wasn't for our room here. We have been able to start to get our life squared away. And if This place was took from us. It would be a disaster to our life.

Everything that we have accomplished. Would go right out The window.

And I believe that goes for every person that is staying here.

This place has helped so many people to go back on the street would be hell. We are very grateful to all .

We are grateful god bless

Sam and Cassandra Watson.

This place isn't a room or a shelter but my home. The exceptional staff have provided more than a professional presence but a safe sanctuary for my doggy Kain and myself. Because of the staff I know I have a safe place from the hardships that come with living outside. This place is a community not a shelter! The thought of not being able to reside here comes with great fear and uncertainty. The staff here are also very supportive and inspiring people. I don't

on the behalf of the Covci Hotel. My experience has
good. They help me in many different ways in my
process and proving the shelter in the process.
I suffer from Grandma Seziures and when it comes
to my medical attention they are there for me and
with me. There very supportive and really ~~appet~~
happy on the way they treat and care about
my disablies. The whole staff puts in hardwork
daily to make sure the guest the get the best
care they can provid.

Brandon Hardy

Done

1 of 2

My name is Anne Davila. I want to write this letter
Expressing why I think places like the Cove are important
and beneficial. 6 months prior to moving into the
Cove I was homeless sleeping at the Bill Graham.
I had no job, no money, no car, and no sense
of direction. I knew I wanted more, but at that
time the task seemed impossible to get back on
my feet. I knew if I was going to make a change
the first step would be getting a roof over my head.
I was able to get into the Cove thanks to the Hot
Team. Immediately things changed. I was able to
shower, and eat regular meals. My health and
hygiene got better. I was now able to focus on
the next step in my plan to get back on my
feet now that I had a steady roof over my head.
I joined the methadone clinic and started working
on my sobriety. Once I started feeling better I
started looking for work and a way to make
money. I would do freelance photography and save
every Bit of money for a car. Once I saved
enough. I was able to purchase a vehicle.
I knew I was starting to make ground &



Done

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Programs from the person staying outside.
I started focusing on working out at the gym
and creating a constructive routine. He's truly a
huge thanks to the Court and the City for providing
me the resources I needed to get back on my
feet. Today I have a checking & saving account
I have a 2000 credit line. I have a job interview
at 24 hour fitness tomorrow for a manager position.
I workout and train daily. I am taking
courses for my personal training license.
I am still clean and on methadone maintenance.
I am repairing relationships with my family and
I am proud to say I am becoming a better
person everyday, and it all started with Having
the opportunity to have a roof over my head and
a bed to sleep in By the Court. Programs like
this work and I'm grateful for them because
it allowed me a foundation to Build On.

Loose D
7-9-24

