

Bismarck Police Department

February 25, 2021

From: Dave Draovitch
Chief of Police

To: *Senate Appropriations
Chairman: Senator Ray Holmberg*

Subj: HB 1012

I write you today to seek your support of HB 1012 particularly related to funding needs of Edwinton Place which is located in Bismarck. Edwinton Place serves a segment of our population that was homeless with addiction issues. Before Edwinton Place existed, our department spent a lot of time and resources dealing with this population. Since Edwinton Place has begun operating (November 2019) our interactions with this population has greatly diminished which has allowed us to focus our efforts on law enforcement matters rather than social matters this population usually needs e.g. intoxication management, housing etc.

Our department still has interactions with this population but they are much different than before Edwinton Place. Most oftentimes the interaction is to help them with a law enforcement issue rather than a social issue.

A major component that makes Edwinton Place successful in serving this population is having staff present 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. The reason this is needed, particularly at night, is to keep the residents in check and to ensure non-resident bad influencers are kept out. I fear that without staff 24/7 Edwinton Place fails in its mission and our department will once again have to devote significant resources to this population. I have been told the funding Edwinton Place is seeking regarding HB 1012 will help them ensure the capability of having staff on-site 24/7.

Thank you for considering this information as this bill moves through the committee. We would respectfully request that you add the \$640,000 to this bill in support of the front door monitoring service as these costs are not covered by the 1915i Medicare amendment that the State approved last legislative session. This is a much-needed service for this population.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at your convenience. I may be reached at ddraovitch@bismarcknd.gov or 701-223-1212.

Respectfully,



DAVE DRAOVITCH
Chief of Police

Dave Draovitch, Chief of Police

Phone: 701-223-1212 ★ FAX: 701-355-1861 ★ Tdd: 701-221-6820 ★ 700 S. Ninth Street ★ Bismarck, ND 58504-5899

