



Public Hearing

Naming of 1111 N. Main Street

July 23, 2024

Public Hearing

This public hearing is required by the City of Harrisonburg's Naming Policy to receive citizen comments on the proposed name of

“The Navigation Center”

for the under-construction City facility presently referred to as the “Homeless Services Center” located at 1111 N. Main Street.









- 1. Community Services Board
- 2. Strength in Peers
- 3. The Salvation Army
- 4. Our Community Place
- 5. Harrisonburg Transit Hub

Operations

- The emergency shelter for adults without children, open every day from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. once in operation, will contain space for up to 72 congregant beds and 4 universal rooms, with other support facilities such as showers and a laundry room.
- Open Doors expects to operate the drop-in center Monday to Friday, expect for major holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Open Doors will partner with other local agencies, including Sentara RMH, the Suitcase Clinic for the Homeless, Strength in Peers, Mercy House, First Step, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board and the City of Harrisonburg Community Paramedicine Program, to provide on-site services.



Low-Barrier

- a. Maintain ADA accessibility;
- b. Accommodate service animals;
- c. Not discriminate based on protected classes;
- d. Not mandate sobriety or treatment;
- e. Not exclude people with criminal convictions, poor credit, or eviction histories;
- f. Not require documentation of citizenship; and
- g. Not turn away clients because of a lack of income or the appearance of an unwillingness to participate in services or employment.

Although the program is low-barrier, possession and use of drugs, alcohol, and weapons in facility and on the premises is prohibited.



Housing First

- Access to a program is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of a criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other conditions except as set forth in this RFP or approved by the City.
- Support services are available but are voluntary, client-driven, individualized, and flexible.
- Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes that drug and alcohol use are a part of some client's lives and must be offered non-judgmental support regarding ways to minimize risky behaviors and engage in safer practices.



Public Input

| Question | Responses |
|---|--|
| Given the goals you have of serving the unhoused population, how important is the name of these facilities to those goals? To the larger community? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates resource for the community, serving the unhoused but in a way benefit the whole community• Trauma informed language, gentler message, communicate the end goal → end homeless in the community• Shaping perception of the facility is, convey the purpose of center• Very important, didn't realize how important the name is to welcome everyone |
| Do you have any suggestions regarding an appropriate name for this facility? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Something that is broad, community oriented• Neutral Name [Geographic], Specifying homeless, health and human services crisis... you don't have to be homeless to use the center (Follow models from VA beach)• Harrisonburg Residential Resource Center → “resource center” not just a shelter facility but the services to become off the streets; narrowly named• I like the idea of resource center, without narrowing its function, “Blue Ridge” “Rock Town” “Rock Town Community Resource Center” |
| What names/terms should be avoided, knowing the history of Harrisonburg? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Naming it after people• Belongs to the Community not just a name, “you are not the crisis but you are experiencing it”, historically nothing off• “Homeless” “Unhoused” The idea is to leave the shelter and become stable• People’s names should be avoided |

Navigation center

- Navigation Center is a name commonly used in the States of California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming for facilities with a similar purpose.
- A navigation center is defined in State of California Code as “a Housing First, low-barrier, service-enriched shelter focused on moving people into permanent housing that provides temporary living facilities while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter, and housing.”
- Using this definition, the name “Navigation Center” aligns with the planned services for the City of Harrisonburg’s facility and the Housing-First and low-barrier principles Open Doors and other community partners will uphold during delivery of services at the facility.

Comment Period Schedule

July 2023, 2024

Council Meeting/Public Hearing/Opening of 30-Day Comment Period – 7:00 PM

August 24, 2024

All public comments must be received by 9:00 AM on August 24, 2024 to be considered.

August 27, 2024

Council Meeting/Council Adoption of Naming Resolution



Public Comments

Comments may be submitted to:

Amy Snider
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Office of the City Manager
409 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 432-7701
Amy.Snider@HarrisonburgVA.gov

