

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 From: **Ben Boike, Assistant Comm. Dev. Dir.**
 Date: **August 26, 2019**

Temporary Residential Housing Review

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Last fall, the City Council approved two Interim Use Permits for Matrix Housing Services to provide temporary housing for the homeless at two locations in West St. Paul, St. Stephens Lutheran Church (1575 Charlton) and Augustana Lutheran Church (1400 Robert). Matrix Housing Services provides temporary emergency housing for the homeless in churches throughout Dakota County from November through April (see attached for more info). The rotating shelter typically operates out of each church for 15 days. During the 2018/2019 winter season, Matrix operated the shelter at St. Stephens from December 1, 2018 – December 15, 2018 and at Augustana from January 12, 2019 – January 26, 2019.

Upon adoption of the ordinance to allow the temporary shelters, Council requested Staff to review the operation with Council after the 2018/2019 season. Staff has invited the Executive Director from Matrix, Subi Ambrose, to attend the meeting to answer any questions. Ms. Ambrose provided the attached review of the 2018/2019 operation and stated that she is hoping to utilize the same two churches again for the 2019/2020 winter season.

Staff requested police call info for the two churches during the timeframes in which the shelters operated which are attached for review. In addition to the calls attached, there were also some calls to adjacent properties regarding concerns related to loitering, etc. Overall, however, the Interim Police Chief stated that there were no major concerns resulting from the shelters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		N/A
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting that Council review and discuss. Should Matrix operate out of St. Stephens and Augustana again this year, their Interim Use Permits will be reviewed administratively. Interim Use Permits only require Council review for new applications or if changes are proposed from the original approval.