

McKinley Restructure

I would like to suggest that we do the same thing with the McKinley School property that we did for the Bucks' parking garage. There, the city paid \$35 million. A bond was issued and we'll be paying it off over a number of years. That's what we were willing to pay for homeless cars. We could do the same thing for our homeless citizens. There are an estimated 250-400 people living on the streets in the Milwaukee area.* We could pay \$10 million for the rebuilding of the property for homeless residents. The first floor could be run by Repairers of the Breach with services for residents since the homeless often are disabled either with addiction or mental health problems. It could also be open for people in the neighborhood who could use the services. Many of the homeless receive monthly checks and would have problems handling their rent money. So there could be a payee system for such residents. The apartments could be single occupancy or there could simply be rooms with baths and, like the old YMCA's, with common kitchens on the first floor. This would be more economical and could lessen isolation among the residents. Bidding for this project could be open to any builder located in the city of Milwaukee.

If the above is unacceptable, other possible uses for the site are a community center or a school, fire station, assisted living facility, library, business, or clinic.

*according to Shelly, a leader in Street Angels

Carol Caffrey