

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2018 2:11 PM
To: Elizabeth O'Nan
Cc: Loryn Clark; Allen Buansi; Donna Bell; Hongbin Gu; Info - CAPA; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Lindsey Bineau; Michael Parker; Nancy Oates; Pam Hemminger; Rachel Schaevitz; Town Council; Amy Harvey; Carolyn Worsley; Catherine Lazorko; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ralph Karpinos; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: email..RE: Housing meeting

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

If your email is related to a development application or a particular issue being addressed by the Council, your comments will be made part of the record. If applicable, we encourage you to attend any public meetings related to the items addressed in your email.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
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[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)
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[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)
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From: Elizabeth O'Nan [mailto:pace@mcdowell.main.nc.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 12:09 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Housing meeting

In preparation for tonight's meeting and my comments there, would you please share this information with city council members and others interested in housing and community development needs. I find the needs of the chemically disabled are seriously neglected and misunderstood and hope to reach out to the compassionate understanding found in abundance in this area in my efforts to provide the special needs housing that is needed for my family and others in this delicate group of disabled individuals.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth O'Nan
420 Hickory Dr.
Chapel Hill NC 27517

Cell: 828-655 0376

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/GME-0009LOPS.PDF>

<http://www.chemicalsensitivityfoundation.org/pdf/amputated-lives-ch2.pdf>

Many people with MCS have committed suicide because they were unable to find housing that did not make them terribly sick. As the personal histories in my book *Casualties of Progress* illustrate all too well, many others across the country are living desperate lives. Some may be about to give up. Nancy Noren would be alive today had she been able to find suitable housing where she wasn't exposed to pesticides.

Finding safe housing is crucial for an individual attempting to climb out of the mire of MCS because living with constant exposure to toxic chemicals usually exacerbates or perpetuates the condition. Three national studies have shown that avoidance of chemical exposures is about the only therapy that seems to help virtually everyone with MCS feel better and regain some degree of health.¹ In some cases, a period of avoidance allows people with MCS the opportunity to reduce their level of sensitivity to chemicals sufficiently to enable them to work once again and to move about more freely in society.

The issue of constructing housing developments that could be viable for the chemically sensitive is not an easy one to handle because of the wide variety in building materials that are tolerated by various people with chemical sensitivity. A useful first step, however, would be for some public-spirited developers to create developments that reduced toxic exposures in the outside air. Such developments would benefit not only those with multiple chemical sensitivity but also those with asthma and other respiratory diseases. In such communities, it would be important to have bans on wood stoves or fireplaces, pesticides, smoking, barbecues, and the use of fabric softeners or dryer sheets, which spread fumes through a wide area surrounding the dryer vent. If the outdoor environment were protected in this way, then individuals could build their own houses using materials that they think they can tolerate and be free to open their windows to get some fresh air.

The need for such housing developments is immense. They would be a lifeline for people like the woman who sent me this e-mail in December 2005: