

Mayor and City Councilors,

Unfortunately I am home recovering from a virus and will be unable to attend tonight's Quality of Life presentation regarding code blue, so I am sending my thoughts via this email.

As a member of the Santa Fe Housing for All Collaborative Advocacy Team, I have become aware of the need to modify the current City of Santa Fe policies regarding code blue.

I am sharing the following points:

- 1) with the changes since last August with the shelter now known as Agape House, there are NO emergency shelters in Santa Fe. All are "transitional" - Agape House has a waiting list of approximately 50 people
- 2) the Code Blue policy of opening at 15 degrees (and with a certain amount of snow?) is arbitrary based on policy created during Mayor Weber's administration.
- 3) current peer review articles note that there is no safe temperature - conditions including wind chill and a person's medical state will affect a person's health being outside in the cold
- 4) a peer review article (attached) from the University of Nebraska Medical Center reviews emergency shelter programs and policies across a number of communities noting that many use dates to implement (i.e. open Nov 15-March 15) versus a temperature. I encourage you to read this recent (2025) article as it also defines the issue and quotes HUD as well as national coalitions.

I encourage you to consider revising the City's Code Blue policy, to reduce deaths caused by exposure to cold conditions.

Peace,

Joene Herr
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