

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Plans for Connections to acquire the Margarita Inn
move forward despite zoning delay.**
Connections Remains Committed to Sheltering Most Vulnerable

EVANSTON, III – March 17, 2022 -- Connections for the Homeless, a nonprofit agency dedicated to ending homelessness in northern Cook County, was notified today that the City of Evanston Planning Department has completed its Zoning Analysis and Determination of Use for the Margarita Inn, where Connections has been operating a shelter for two years. The results from the City’s report will require the agency to take further steps to comply with Evanston’s zoning code before making the arrangement at the Margarita Inn permanent. Specifically, the Special Use approved for the property in 1974 was deemed expired. Connections will continue to operate the Margarita Inn, which is currently sheltering 61 neighbors, 7 of whom are children under the age of 18, while working directly with City Staff and elected officials to follow the process of applying for a new Special Use Permit.

In response to the news Betty Bogg, Executive Director said “Zoning is complicated and often takes a long time, but we are not deterred. Connections has worked in partnership with the City to serve our most vulnerable neighbors since 1984.”

Commenting on the well-attended community meeting on Sunday, March 13, Bogg said, “Since our inception 37 years ago, we have always responded to community concerns about the impact our operations have. Valuing community input is not just a talking point for us – it is what the agency is built on. We have over 1,600 volunteers and more than 3,000 donors, most of whom are Evanstonians, who are the backbone of our organization.”

Connections will continue work with the City’s staff and elected officials to address the community input received at the meeting on March 13 and going forward. .

ABOUT CONNECTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

Connections for the Homeless is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving nearly 4,000 individuals facing homelessness and housing insecurity each year through eviction prevention, housing, and shelter programs. For more information, visit connect2home.org.

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