Outlook

Suquamish Care Center

From Christina Black <tina_bug07@yahoo.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 9:44 AM
To City of Poulsbo Planning and Economic Development <information@cityofpoulsbo.com>

You don't often get email from tina_bug07@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

Poulsbo Planning Commission 11/17/2026

My name is Christina Black. I grew up in Poulsbo, and for nearly 8 years, I have owned Bon Cheveux Salon & Spa, right next door to the proposed Suquamish CARE Center. I oppose approval at this location as proposed.

Drug use has affected my life for as long as I can remember. Last year, my father died of a fentanyl overdose while he was actively seeking treatment for his lifelong addiction issues. I've worked hard and have been committed to building a life where drugs aren't part of my day-to-day life. I understand that people struggling with addiction need treatment and deserve privacy. The Tribe has cited patient privacy as one reason for choosing this location. **How did the city weigh that consideration alongside the safety, access, and livelihoods of the people who already work here, bring their children here, and depend on these businesses? **

I employ 13 local people, and I just signed a ten-year lease. I've made a long-term investment in Poulsbo, and my business contributes to the local economy. If clients stop coming and the business suffers, I can't just close shop or move somewhere else. My employees count on their jobs here to support their families.

We see an average of 7,000 clients a year. I want families to feel comfortable from the moment they park, and I want the women who work with me to feel safe walking to their cars after closing. I'm also thinking about the patients and staff at Frontier Dermatology across the street, the customers and employees at Liberty Bay Bank, and the customers and crew at Liberty Bay Auto Detailing. This stretch already sees a lot of traffic.

Where will shuttles pick up and drop off?

Which bus stops will patients use, and how will people cross safely?

Will the indoor waiting area be open to people who arrive early or are waiting for a ride home?

Will dedicated security be on site throughout operating hours?

If a safety concern affects a neighboring business, who can employees call, and how quickly will someone respond?

I’m asking the city to explain which alternatives it reviewed. Did it consider expanding the existing Wellness Center, building on land in Suquamish, or choosing a less congested site in Poulsbo that still has transit access? What did that review find?

Please hold off on approving this location until those questions are answered publicly and the permit includes enforceable conditions for traffic, waiting areas, and security.

Thank you.

Christina Black

Owner
Bon Cheveux Salon & Spa

19880 7th ave

Ste 104

Poulsbo, WA

98370

Public Comment — Poulsbo Planning Commission

November 17, 2026 · Suquamish CARE Center, 19950 7th Avenue NE, Poulsbo

Good evening, Chair Kipps and members of the Commission. My name is Greg Griesemer. I'm a Poulsbo resident and the father of seven children.

I'm here to speak against locating the Suquamish CARE Center — the opioid treatment clinic — at 19950 7th Avenue Northeast, in the middle of our Highway 305 shopping area.

I want to be clear: I understand people need treatment, and I respect the work of helping people recover from addiction. My concern is the location, not the care itself.

First, many of the people seeking methadone treatment are there because a court ordered it — they're coming out of the penal system, out of incarceration, and treatment is part of their parole or probation. That means a daily flow of people under court supervision into a retail area, right where families shop.

Second, the Suquamish Tribe already operates a treatment center — the Suquamish Tribe Wellness Center at 18490 Suquamish Way Northeast, Suite 107, in Suquamish — about ten minutes down this same highway. It already provides counseling and medication-assisted treatment, including methadone. And there is undeveloped land all around it. My recommendation is simple: expand the center that already exists, where the care is already working, instead of building a second, larger facility in the middle of our shopping area.

Third, the proposed site sits right across the highway from two churches — and one of them hosts a community co-op for homeschool students, 250 students every week. That's 250 kids, plus their families, gathering across the street from a clinic dispensing opioids every day.

And I want to add a concern about the treatment itself. I understand methadone is controlled by a doctor, and that it's meant to help people get off heroin and fentanyl. But methadone is itself an opioid. People come in, they get dosed, and then they're released back out onto the streets. And the FDA's own warnings on methadone are serious: it can cause life-threatening breathing problems, especially in the first days of treatment or when a dose is increased. It can prolong the heart's QT interval and cause irregular heartbeat, fainting, or sudden death. It causes heavy drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, and impaired coordination — patients are warned not to drive until they know how it affects them. And even one dose, accidentally taken by a child, can be fatal.

So I'm asking the Commission to weigh all of that — the court-ordered population, the existing tribal center ten minutes away with room to grow, the two churches and 250 homeschool students across the highway, and the real risks that come with the medication itself — and to reconsider this location. Expand the care where it already exists. Don't put it in the middle of our shopping area.