

From: [Kenwood Neighbors](#)
To: [Clerks](#); [Matthew Staehling](#); [Azrin Awal](#); [Wendy Durrwachter](#); [Arik Forsman](#); [Janet Kennedy](#); [Mike Mayou](#); [Lynn Marie Nephew](#); [Roz Randorf](#); [Tara Swenson](#); [Terese Tomanek](#)
Subject: Vineyard Safe Bay Documented Issues
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:16:12 PM
Attachments: [Safe Bay Cars Under Trees.jpg](#)

Our neighborhood has been documenting all the issues we have dealt with since Safe Bay was opened at Vineyard Church.

The large old trees in this neighborhood often fall down during high winds and storms. One neighbor already paid to have two trees that were leaning towards the parking lot to be cut down. Neighbors told Chum staff about concerns of trees falling into the parking lot and to keep cars with sleeping people away from the lot lines. This was discussed at multiple meetings with Chum prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

When this program opened, Chum staff have directed Safe Bay users to park their vehicles as close as they can to residential properties. They put up signs telling everyone to park there. Every single night they were open they lined up all the cars on the very back of the property line, under large trees. They have some cars backing in to have exhaust face backyards and houses. This is targeted and malicious against residents, and unsafe for the people parking. We also have many documented reports of extended car idling during quiet hours. This has woken up residents at late hours. Chum staff told neighbors that there is no car idling allowed but they refuse to enforce this. **We recognize the community could likely care less about our exhaust and idling concerns. The point is that it was a concern that was brought to Chum, easy solutions were available to mitigate (parking further away from the property line, enforcing no idling) and Chum did absolutely nothing. Why should our neighborhood trust that they will follow through and address bigger concerns?**

There were high winds for several days that Safe Bay was open. Neighbors talked to Joel Kilgour in person and left a voicemail on his personal phone on 5/19/25 to again say that people need to be away from the trees during high winds and discussed idling issues again. They received no call back. All issues and concerns went unanswered and Chum staff continued to direct people to park on the back line, under the trees. There was no phone number set up for Safe Bay for neighbors to call. One neighbor directly received a number for a personal phone line that goes to Joel Kilgour or Drew Filkins, but were instructed not to call during the night so everyone gets their rest.

On 5/26/25, a couple days after Safe Bay operation was stayed, three Duluth police officers were in the back parking lot of Vineyard Church recovering a stolen UTV that was

parked and hidden over the weekend near the dumpsters.

On 5/30/25, when Safe Bay wasn't operating, a tan passenger car was parked in the rear parking lot up against the property lines with towels in the windows. 911 was called around 11 PM. It is unclear if the police ever came. The car was still there at 5 AM.

On 6/3/25 (today), Chum and Vineyard staff were using heavy machinery to dig on the back property line. Chum staff were trespassing on neighbor property on the other side of the snow fence, even after the neighbor told them they could not trespass on their property. Gopher State One Call was not called and no property line survey has been done. There are no proper setbacks, permits, or appropriate fencing materials used.

There is so much parking lot area available, but Chum staff are telling people to park on the back property line as close as they can get to residents, even after many complaints. There is nothing that Chum has done to work with our neighborhood and any complaints are used against us to target and harass us. They cannot be trusted.

Any neighbor issues with Safe Bay are never documented by Chum. They continue to maintain that they have never had any issues, and the city has stated that they have received no formal complaints about Safe Bay in the past.

All complaints and concerns that neighbors have will now be reported to City Council, and will be read at City Council meetings, on camera, for the record and in public. This will be the only way to have formal complaints recorded for future legal action and for accountability.

Kenwood Neighbors United

