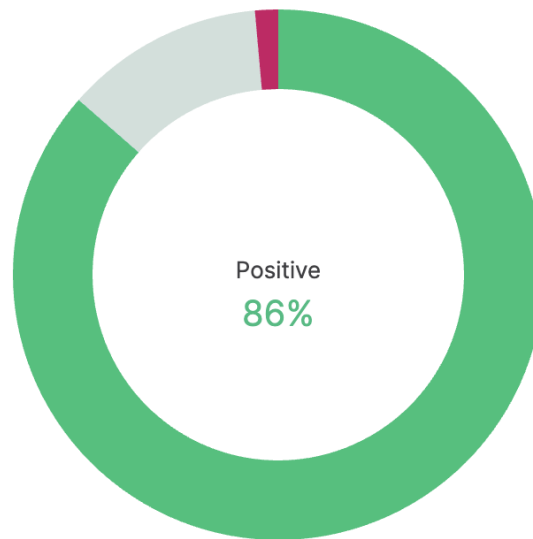


Human Services:

Conversion of rec center into a winter homeless shelter receives strong support; a handful of residents express concern about safety issues while confusion about the rec center itself also emerges

Nov 28 - Dec 27, 2021

Sentiment analysis - Winter Shelter



The decision to convert an old recreation center into winter housing for unhoused individuals generated 782 interactions during the past 30 days (November 28 - December 27). This issue caused a 200% increase in homelessness discourse in the county compared to the previous 30-day period.

The decision garnered strong support and appreciation; 86% of all interactions prompted by the Winter Shelter announcement were supportive, reflected by “likes,” “loves,” and positive commentary. Only 1% of the interactions were negative.

Residents were primarily appreciative of the decision and thought it was a welcome and necessary step. By contrast, several commenters expressed objection to the decision arguing that it would adversely impact the area, making it less safe. However, these responses were anecdotal.

The commentary also shows some confusion about the current and future use of the rec center. Some commenters thought it served the community better as a recreation center and had others explain that it was no longer active and was about to be torn down.

Overall, the residents' response to the Winter Shelter was overwhelmingly positive, with residents applauding the decision and reaffirming its benefit. While this theme remained limited in scale, some concerns about safety issues around the shelter did emerge.