



Laredo, Texas 78040
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Barbara A. Kazen
Center for Hope
(Main Offices)
817 Hidalgo St.

Dining Facility
819 Hidalgo St.

Shelter
815 Hidalgo St.

Courtyard & Resource
Center
901 Hidalgo St.

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BETHANY HOUSE

Founded in 1982 by Father Charles McNaboe
Our Mission: "To feed the hungry and shelter the homeless"

January 15, 2026

Ms. Tina Rodriguez
City of Laredo Community Development, Director
1301 Farragut- 3rd Floor East Wing
Laredo, TX 78040

Re: Modifications to Resource Center Façade

I am writing on behalf of Bethany House in response to your request for clarification regarding modifications made in August 2025 to the façade of the Bethany House Resource Center located in 901 Hidalgo Street, which include the replacement of three plate glass window panels with a stucco wall.

The modifications were implemented in response to an act of vandalism in which a person undergoing severe mental health distress threw pieces of brick through five of the large front plate glass windows, shattering them completely. A photo of the damage is attached.

The destruction of the windows left the entire building open to the street. It left the lobby area fully exposed and created an unsafe environment for staff and participants of our program.

Following this incident, our location was a target of several property damage threats from other individuals experiencing homelessness and severe mental health instability.

Given these conditions, immediate action was taken to mitigate risk and ensure the safety and continuity of the essential services our agency provides. The decision to go with a stucco wall to replace four of the windows was undertaken as a temporary response to urgent conditions.

Since the event, we have asked our contractor if using a stronger glass to replace the windows would guaranty that this damage would not happen again. We were informed that a stronger glass might make the windows a little more difficult to break, but in a next contest of brick meeting glass in all likelihood the brick would win out again. Estimates for the cost of replacing all five windows were approximately \$8,000.00 with regular grade glass. This is a cost we cannot afford to pay of a regular basis.

We acknowledge that the Resource Center is located within a recognized historic district. We deeply respect the importance of preserving the architectural and historical integrity of the area. We recognize that Bethany House should address the long-term disposition of these modifications through the appropriate review and approval processes and take the action required to resolve the matter on a permanent basis. We will begin this process.

Please be assured that Bethany House remains committed to working collaboratively with the City of Laredo. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Monica Bautista, Bethany House Executive Director



Original Façade



Damages the date of
the incident -
August 5, 2025



Existing façade after
modifications