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Dottie Buckon - Youth Re-entry Lakewood move

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From: "Brauer, Mark" <mbrauer@lmm youth.org>
To: <mlmadigan9@hotmail.com>
Date: 3/14/2006 1:46:25 PM
Subject: Youth Re-entry Lakewood move

Mary Louise,

I don't think I have communicated with you since before the meeting with Lakewood representatives that Dottie Buckon was kind enough to set up. I wanted to bring you up to date.

The Feb. 14 meeting took a little different direction than some of us (including Ms. Buckon) had anticipated it would when early on Charles Barrett cited the Lakewood zoning code for the neighborhood where the Hidden Village Apartments are located. His interpretation was that our intended use was not allowable by the code. Without going into all the details (which I would be willing to elaborate on if you wish), there was some discussion aimed at clarification of his understanding of the code, along with some information from representatives of the Police Dept. on the neighborhood characteristics, as well as talk of other possible Lakewood venues like the commercial districts along Detroit and Madison.

I left the meeting feeling that I didn't have a clear understanding as to why the code prohibited our intended use and I had conversations with various folks here at LMM and with our legal counsel, Craig Miller, at Ulmer & Berne. Craig examined the code, looked at what Youth Re-entry does, and then had a conversation with Charles Barrett, Ed Fitzgerald and Tom Corrigan. His conclusion was that he didn't really hear from them how the code excluded use of the apartments by Youth Re-entry. He told them that he would be counseling us that he believed their position in that regard was untenable. He has done that and, pending agreement on a lease, we will likely make the move.

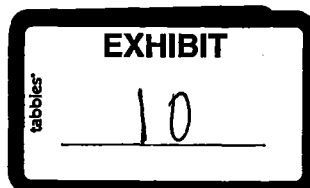
I called Ms. Buckon to see if she was aware of what had transpired. More importantly, I wanted to ask whether another meeting might be appropriate with representatives of her choosing to establish relationships. She thought this made sense and suggested that we could find out about community services at such a meeting as well. We agreed that I would be back in touch when a final decision was made about the move.

I welcome any feedback or counsel.

Thanks.

Mark

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