A. PROPOSAL/REQUEST/APPLICANT’S STATEMENT:

The applicant is requesting to rezone 5.04 acres of undeveloped property from POD/R2 to POD to allow the construction of a new Family Peace Center. The western portion of the proposed site is part of an existing POD, the eastern portion is zoned R-2. The proposal also includes the removal of an existing trail system that will be re-routed around the new development.
B. EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The property is undeveloped, and tree covered. Properties surrounding the site contain a mixture of zoning and uses.

C. NEIGHBORHOOD NOTIFICATIONS:

All owners of property within 300 feet of the site and all neighborhood associations registered with the City of Little Rock were notified of the public hearing.

D. ENGINEERING COMMENTS:

1. Contact Planning and Development Dept., Engineering Division at 501-371-4817 or at 501-918-5348 for inspections of any work in the public right-of-way prior to placement of concrete or asphalt or for on-site clarification of requirements prior to commencing work. Failure to do so can result in removal of any improperly placed concrete or asphalt at the expense of the owner or contractor.

2. Any work involving one (1) or more acres of disturbed area requires a State of Arkansas NPDES permit. Contact the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, NPDES branch at 501-682-0744 for applications and information about General Stormwater Discharge Construction Permit #ARR150000.

3. A grading permit must be obtained prior to initiation of work. Grading permits are issued by the Planning and Development Dept. at 723 West Markham Street after approval of sediment and erosion control plans, grading and drainage plans, land survey, drainage study, and soil loss calculations per City’s stormwater management and drainage manual. Contact Planning and Development Dept., Engineering Division at 501-371-4817 or at 501-918-5348 or Permits@littlerock.gov to schedule an appointment for issuance or to answer any questions. Permit cost is based on total project area at $100.00 for the less than ½ acre, $200.00 for ½ to 1 acre, and $200.00 for the first acre and $100.00 for each additional acre for project greater than 1 acre.

4. The Department requires three (3) phase sediment and erosion control (SEC) plans to be submitted for all construction projects showing best management practices (BMPs) for mitigating sediment runoff and erosion along with vegetation specifications for temporary and permanent soil stabilization. Phase 1 SEC plans shall show SEC BMPs during the stripping, clearing, grubbing, and rough grading of the site. Phase 2 SEC plans shall show SEC BMPs during construction of utilities, buildings, roadway infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. Phase 3 SEC Plans shall show SEC BMPs for final grading, seeding, and landscaping of the site. Sediment and Erosion Control plans shall also show the pertinent information as outlined in ADEQ ARR150000 Permit Part II section A-4-H (1-14) and Part II section A-4-I-2 (A-B).
5. Per City Rev. Code 29-99, stormwater detention for developments is required. Provide stormwater detention infrastructure to satisfy this requirement.

6. Per City Code 31-434, a 50% maintenance bond for all street and stormwater infrastructure constructed within the public right of way shall be submitted to Department engineering staff prior to final acceptance. Before the 50% maintenance bond can be accepted, a contract unit bid price for every street and stormwater infrastructure construction item within the public right of way shall be submitted to Department engineering staff for review and approval.

7. Per City Code 31-117, as built stormwater drainage infrastructure information/data shall be submitted prior to final acceptance. This information shall include but not limited to: pipe inverts, length of pipe, size of pipe, type of pipe, and type of inlets.

8. Department engineering staff is required to perform a final inspection of all street and stormwater infrastructure construction within the public right of way. City maintenance of the street and stormwater drainage infrastructure within the public right of way cannot officially begin until final acceptance by Department engineering staff. This needs to be completed and accepted by Department engineering staff prior to final acceptance.

9. A drainage study showing all hydrologic calculations for the site and all hydraulic calculations for the proposed storm sewer pipe system, swales and ditches, detention ponds, outlet structures, and inlets is required per City’s stormwater management and drainage manual. For final drainage report, sign, date, and seal the report per AR State Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors rules Article 12, Section B (1) (a). Provide engineer's certification statement saying this drainage report was conducted by yourself or directly under your supervision and attesting to the accuracy of the information within this report.

10. Boundary street improvements are required per master street plan. Boundary street improvements shall include, but not be limited to, reconstruction of one-half section of the abutting street if the existing street is not up to city standards. Repair, replace, or extend existing damaged, missing, and noncompliant curb and gutter, sidewalk, access ramps or concrete driveway aprons within the public right-of-way adjacent to the site. Remove abandoned driveway cuts and replace with curb, gutter, and sidewalk. All work within the public right-of-way shall conform to City of Little Rock Public Works Standard Details and ADA guidelines.

11. Dailey Drive is classified as a commercial/collector street per City’s master street plan. Per commercial/collector standard in master street plan, a total of sixty (60) feet of right of way is required for a commercial/collector street. Therefore, the developer will be required to dedicate a total thirty (30) feet of right of way from the existing centerline of Dailey Drive to meet master street plan requirements.
12. Street design standards shall comply with the latest version of the *AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*, City's Master Street Plan (2018), and City's Standard Details for street and drainage facilities improvements (2015).

13. Street stormwater and detention infrastructure design standards shall comply with the City’s Stormwater Management and Drainage Manual (2016) including City Code Chapters 29, 30, and 31.

14. Street pavement, sidewalks, curb and gutter, curb inlets, junction boxes, accessible ramps, and storm sewer infrastructure shall comply with City’s specifications for construction as outlined in City Code Chapters 30.

15. If proposed retaining walls shown on plans are equal to or above four feet tall measured from the bottom of the footing or leveling layer or if there is surcharge loading for a retaining wall less than four feet tall measured from the bottom of the footing or leveling layer, the Department requires retaining wall design plans by an Arkansas licensed professional engineer showing plan, profile, and cross sectional views of the wall with special details, design loading calculations clearly showing all required factors of safety are met or exceed per state building codes. A separate building permit-accessory structure will be required for the retaining walls along with inspections by Department engineering staff during their construction.

16. Per 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Volume 1 Fire Appendix D Fire Apparatus Access Roads, fire apparatus access roads shall be a paved surface unless otherwise approved by the Fire Marshal.

E. UTILITIES/FIRE DEPARTMENT/PARKS/COUNTY PLANNING:

**Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority:**

1. If necessary, submit the wastewater infrastructure plans to LRWRA for review.

**Entergy:** No comments received.

**Summit Utilities:** No comments.

**AT & T:** No comments received.

**Central Arkansas Water:**

1. All Central Arkansas Water requirements in effect at the time of request for water service must be met.

2. Please submit plans for water facilities and/or fire protection system to Central Arkansas Water for review. Plan revisions may be required after additional review. Contact Central Arkansas Water regarding procedures for installation of water facilities and/or fire service. Approval of plans by the Arkansas
Department of Health Engineering Division and Little Rock Fire Department is required.

3. A Capital Investment Charge based on the size of meter connection(s) will apply to this project in addition to normal charges. This fee will apply to all connections including metered connections off the private fire system.

4. Contact Central Arkansas Water regarding the size and location of the water meter.

5. The facilities on-site will be private. When meters are planned off private lines, private facilities shall be installed to Central Arkansas Water's material and construction specifications and installation will be inspected by an engineer, licensed to practice in the State of Arkansas. Execution of Customer Owned Line Agreement is required.

6. Due to the nature of this facility, installation of an approved reduced pressure zone backflow preventer assembly (RPZ) is required on the domestic water service. This assembly must be installed prior to the first point of use. Central Arkansas Water (CAW) requires that upon installation of the RPZA, successful tests of the assembly must be completed by a Certified Assembly Tester licensed by the State of Arkansas and approved by CAW. The test results must be sent to CAW's Cross Connection Section within ten days of installation and annually thereafter. Contact the Cross Connection Section at 377-1226 if you would like to discuss backflow prevention requirements for this project.

7. Fire sprinkler systems which do not contain additives such as antifreeze shall be isolated with a double detector check valve assembly. If additives are used, a reduced pressure zone backflow preventer shall be required.

**Fire Department:**

**Maintain Access:**

**Fire Hydrants.**

Maintain fire apparatus access roads at fire hydrant locations as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.1 Access road width with a hydrant. Where a fire hydrant is located on a fire apparatus access road, the minimum road width shall be 26 feet, exclusive of shoulders.

**Grade**

Maintain fire apparatus access roads as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.2 Grade. Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10 percent in grade except as approved by the fire chief. If the grade exceeds 10 percent, approval will be denied and the applicant must submit request to be reviewed by Fire Chief for Approval.

**Loading**

Maintain fire apparatus access road design as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D102.1 Access and loading.
Facilities, buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an approved fire apparatus access road with an asphalt, concrete or other approved driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds.

**Commercial and Industrial Developments – 2 means of access.** - Maintain fire apparatus access roads as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1

**Section D104.1 Buildings exceeding three stories or 30 feet in height.** Building or facilities exceeding 30 feet or three stories in height shall have at least two means of fire apparatus access for each structure.

**Section D104.2 Building exceeding 62,000 square feet in area.** Buildings or facilities having a gross building area of more than 62,000 square feet shall be provide with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

**Exception:** Projects having a gross building area of up to 124,000 square feet that have a single approved fire apparatus access road when all building are equipped throughout with approved automatic sprinkler systems.

**D104.3 Remoteness.** Where two fire apparatus access roads are required, they shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the lot or area to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses.

**30' Tall Buildings - Maintain aerial fire apparatus access roads as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D105.1 – D105.4**

**D105.1 Where Required.** Where the vertical distance between the grade plane and the highest roof surface exceed 30', approved aerial fire apparatus access roads shall be provided. For the purposes of this section the highest roof surfaces shall be determined by measurement to the eave of a pitched roof, the intersection of a roof to the exterior wall, or the top of the parapet walls, whichever is greater.

**D105.2 Width.** Aerial fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed with of 26’, exclusive of shoulders, in the immediate vicinity of the building or portion thereof.

**D105.3 Proximity to building.** At least one of the required access routes meeting this condition shall be located within a minimum of 15 feet and a maximum of 30 feet from the building, and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building. The side of the building on which the aerial fire apparatus access road is positioned shall be approved by the fire code official.

**D105.4 Obstructions.** Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located over the aerial fire apparatus access road or between the aerial fire
apparatus road and the building. Other obstructions shall be permitted to be places with the approval of the fire code official.

**Dead Ends.**

Maintain fire apparatus access roads at dead end locations as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.4 Dead Ends. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet shall be provided with width and turnaround provisions in accordance with Table D103.4. Requirements for Dead-end fire apparatus access roads.

**Gates**

Maintain fire apparatus access road gates as per Appendix D of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates. Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all of the following criteria:

1. Minimum gate width shall be 20 feet.
2. Gates shall be of swinging or sliding type.
3. Construction of gates shall be of material that allow manual operation by one person.
4. Gate components shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times and replaces or repaired when defective.
5. Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Emergency opening devices shall be approved by the fire code official.
6. Manual opening gates shall not be locked with a padlock or chain and padlock unless they are capable of being opened by means of forcible entry tools or when a key box containing the keys to the lock is installed at the gate location.
7. Locking device specifications shall be submitted for approval by the fire code official
8. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325.
9. Gates, intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with requirements of ASTM F 2200.

**Multi-Family Residential Developments**

As per Appendix D, Section D106.1 of the 2021 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1. Projects having more than 100 dwelling units. Multiple-family residential projects having more than 100 dwelling units shall be equipped throughout with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

**Exception:** Projects having up to 200 dwelling units may have a single approved fire apparatus access road when all building, including nonresidential
occupancies are equipped throughout with approved automatic sprinkler systems installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2

**As per Appendix D, Section D106.2 of the 2021 Arkansas Fire prevention Code Vol. 1. Projects having more than 200 dwelling units.** Multiple-family residential projects having more than 200 dwelling units shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads regardless of whether they are equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

**Parks and Recreation:** No comments received.

**County Planning:** No comments.

**F. BUILDING CODES/LANDSCAPE:**

**Building Code:** No comments received.

**Landscape:**

1. Any new site development must comply with the City’s minimal landscape and buffer ordinance requirements. Refer to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15 Landscaping and Tree Protection, and Chapter 36, Article IX – Buffers and Screening.

2. Site development plans, with landscape and screening, must be submitted for review, and approval, prior to site clearing and tree removal.

**G. TRANSPORTATION/PLANNING:**

**Rock Region Metro:** No comments received.

**Planning Division:**

The request is in the Geyer Springs West Planning District. The Land Use Plan shows Public/Institutional (PI) for the requested area. The Public/Institutional (PI) category includes public and quasi-public facilities that provide a variety of services to the community such as schools, libraries, fire stations, churches, utility substations, and hospitals. The application is to rezone from R-2 to POD. Womens Shelter.

Surrounding the application area are over 60 acres of PI, with federal, county, city facilities. To the south and west are Residential Low Density (RL) uses.

This site is not located in an Overlay District.
Master Street Plan:

Dailey Drive is a Local Street on the Master Street Plan. Local Streets are roads designed to provide access to adjacent property with the movement of traffic being a secondary purpose. The standard Right-of-way is 50’. Sidewalks are required on one side. This street may require dedication of right-of-way and may require street improvements.

Bicycle Plan:

The Master Bike Plan Map does not show existing or proposed facilities in this area.

Historic Preservation Plan:

This property is not located in a Historic District.

H. ANALYSIS:

The applicant is requesting to rezone 5.04 acres of undeveloped property from POD/R2 to POD to allow the construction of a new Family Peace Center. The western portion of the proposed site is part of an existing POD, the eastern portion is zoned R-2. The proposal also includes the removal of an existing trail system that will be re-routed around the new development.

The property is undeveloped, and tree covered. Properties surrounding the site contain a mixture of zoning and uses.

The development will be accessed at the 9000 Block along the east side of Daily Drive.

The site plans show one-hundred-sixteen (116) parking spaces, including eight (8) ADA spaces for a total of one-hundred-twenty-four (124) total parking spaces. Most of the parking spaces are provided along the northern portion of the of the overall site with additional parking provided on the west side of the proposed buildings. All parking areas will include newly installed asphalt pavement. Typically, seventy-six (76) parking spaces, including four (4) ADA parking spaces are required. Staff feels the parking is sufficient to serve the use. The site plan shows a newly constructed five (5) foot sidewalk will encompass the entire areas designated for parking.

The site plan indicates four (4) newly constructed buildings on the site. A one-story, 4,200 square foot building is in the northeastern portion of the of the site and a two-story, 29,432 square foot building in the center portion of the site which also includes the common turf/playground area. The rear portion of the overall development includes two (2), two-story buildings containing 21,572 square feet and 20,792 square feet respectively.
The facility will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a current staff of thirty-one (31) employees and a maximum of fifty (50) employees at any given time. The Family Peace Center will receive and disperse donations to victims of domestic violence, while also providing temporary housing as well as an array of services:

- Statewide domestic violence 24-hour hotline
- Emergency Shelter
- Sexual assault program
- Children’s program
- Outreach clients/legal help
- Camp Hope (refuge for children)
- Advocacy program and support (medical, housing & employment)
- Transitional housing
- Adult education
- Community education and outreach program

The site plan indicates building setbacks of twenty-five feet from the front (north) property line and a minimum of eight (8) feet from the rear (south) and side property lines.

Additional site improvements include a retaining wall located along the north property line, security fencing along the east property line and the newly configured, eight (8) foot wide trail starting at the parking lot along Daily drive before traversing the north property line, veering south along the east property line, and terminating along the south property line in the rear of the overall development.

A paved drive for emergency access will be installed at the southwest corner of the site.

The site plan shows a detention pond located between the primary building and security fence along the east property line.

The site plan shows one (1) dumpster enclosure located in the northeast corner of the site. The dumpster area must be screened as per Section 36-523 of the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Site lighting must be low-level and directed away from adjacent properties.

No new signage is indicated on the site plan. All new signs must conform to Section 36-553 of the City's Zoning Ordinance (signs permitted in institutional and office zones).
Staff is supportive of the requested POD to allow construction of the Family Peace Center including all site improvements. The proposed use for this development is to alleviate the effects of domestic violence on the women and children in care through a community effort of city and statewide partnerships. Staff feel that the creation of the campus will be a benefit for the area. The proposed use will have a positive impact on the general area and have no adverse impact on the surrounding residential properties.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the requested POD request, subject to compliance with the comments and conditions outlined in paragraphs D, E and F, and the staff analysis, of the agenda staff report.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:  (MARCH 14, 2024)

The applicant was present. There were no persons registered in opposition. Staff presented the item and a recommendation of approval as outlined in the “staff analysis” above. The item remained on the Consent Agenda for Approval. The vote was 10 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent. The application was approved.