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October 19, 2023

City of Little Rock
Department of Planning and Development
Attn: Mr. Torrence Thrower
723 W. Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: 822 Monroe Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Dear Mr. Thrower:

This law firm represents Tara J. Tinnin (the "Owner"). In that regard, please find enclosed an Application for Special Use Permit (the "Application") for the real property located at 822 Monroe Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 (the "Real Property"), which Application is being submitted on behalf of the Owner in accordance with Section 36-54 of the Little Rock Code of Ordinances.

The Owner seeks a special use permit for the Real Property permitting Owner to provide sober living housing to the ever-growing number of Arkansans with substance abuse issues. The residential housing model for sober living provides people in recovery with an opportunity to pursue sobriety in a stable environment away from the playgrounds and playmates that often pressure those in sobriety back into chemical dependency.

Owner will provide sober living housing (i.e., shelter only) through a group home setting. Owner will not provide counseling, rehabilitative or any other services to residents of the Real Property. Owner seeks to utilize the Real Property to provide housing in a family-like environment to more than four (4) handicapped persons.

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Section 36-3 of the Little Rock Code of Ordinances defines “group home” to mean “a facility that does not fall within another defined facility category within this section and which provides housing in a family-like environment to more than four (4) handicapped individuals.”¹

Section 36-2 of the Little Rock Code of Ordinances defines “handicapped persons” to include “persons with a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one (1) or more of such person’s major life activities, or who have a record of having such impairment, or who are regarded as having such impairment.” Both the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act include alcoholism within the definition of handicap (disability).

We respectfully submit the enclosed Application and request that Owner be granted a special use permit, permitting Owner to operate a group home on the Real Property to provide sober living housing to handicapped persons in need.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at the telephone number or email address above.

Sincerely,

MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG,
GATES & WOODYARD, P.L.L.C.

By


Ashley Gill

ALG:

¹ Section 36-3 of the Little Rock Code of Ordinances defines “family care facility” to mean “a facility which provides resident service in a family-like environment to six (6) or fewer individuals and not more than two (2) staff personnel.” Owner seeks to utilize the Real Property to provide housing in a family-like environment to more than six (6) handicapped persons. Therefore, Owner’s proposed use does not qualify as a “family care facility.” Section 36-3 of the Little Rock Code of Ordinances defines “group care facility” to mean “a facility providing shelter, counseling and other rehabilitative services to more than six (6) but fewer than sixteen (16) residents and not more than three (3) staff or supervisory personnel.” Owner will not provide any counseling or other rehabilitative services to residents of the Real Property. Therefore, Owner’s proposed use does not qualify as a “group care facility.”