

Brandi Johnson
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Oregon City, OR 97045

August 30, 2019

Dear Mayor Holladay and Commissioners Smith, McGriff, O'Donnell, and Smith:

Thank you for your time and service to our city.

I live and work in Oregon City, serve as assistant director of LoveOne, and am a member of the Homeless Solutions Coalition of Clackamas County. I write to request that the City Council allow faith-based organizations located within low-density residential zones to serve as shelters with less than 10 beds pursuant to a conditional use permit under the current proposed code amendments.

As the code amendments currently are drafted, shelters with less than 10 beds may be permitted with a conditional use permit in medium density residential zones. As you know, current codes do not permit proposed shelter sites to apply for conditional use in low-density residential zones.

There are several churches in Oregon City located within these low-density zones. As a resident of Oregon City, I am asking you to allow faith-based organizations located within these zones the ability to apply for a conditional use permit to serve as a temporary shelter, be it building or parking lot use.

I believe temporary shelters under condition use permits would provide a very vulnerable segment of our population with a safe place to sleep. When someone has a safe place to sleep, they are better equipped to stabilize in other areas of their lives, including accessing medical care, receiving job training and placement, and other necessary resources.

Historically, churches have been leaders in providing community-based social services to neighbors in need. This continues to hold true, particularly in the area of food distribution programs and clothes closets. Allowing faith-based organizations to provide life-saving shelter makes practical sense and would add no additional burden on taxpayers. We can talk all day about the various issues surrounding the complicated issue of housing instability, however allowing temporary shelters that serve 10 or fewer people in low density residential zones is not complicated and should be allowed.

I respectfully request that you use this code amendment opportunity to include churches as locations that can apply to serve as shelters with less than 10 beds under conditional use in low-density residential zones.

Sincerely,



Brandi Johnson