

Submitted 9/7/17

-----Original Message-----

From: Marpheen Chann <marpheen@marpheenchann.com>
To: lewisjuju <lewisjuju@aol.com>
Sent: Thu, Sep 7, 2017 3:21 am
Subject: Re: Fwd: Conditional Use Appeal; 1519 Forest Avenue

Thank you for forwarding this to me. I will do what I can to address this issue.

If the three of you would like to meet id be happy to come by and listen to your concerns in person.

On Sep 6, 2017 10:02 PM, <lewisjuju@aol.com> wrote:
Hello Councilor Hopeful Chann,

We looked diligently earlier today for an email address to include you with a copy of our concerns to the City of Portland, but we were unable to locate an email for you. Then, we literally just happened upon one, so we would take this opportunity to copy you in on the below, and we hope you will give careful consideration to our concerns with the subject proposal. Thank you, Judy Lewis, Sonya Moore and Stephen Hamilton

-----Original Message-----

From: lewisjuju <lewisjuju@aol.com>
To: zoning <zoning@portlandmaine.gov>; dbrenerman <dbrenerman@portlandmaine.gov>; estrimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>
Sent: Wed, Sep 6, 2017 9:47 pm
Subject: Conditional Use Appeal; 1519 Forest Avenue

Board Members, Councilor Brenerman and Mayor Strimling,

I am Judy Lewis, owner and occupant of property at 17 Westlawn Road, located in the neighborhood of the 1519 Forest Avenue.

We are Sonya Moore and Stephen Hamilton, owners and occupants of property at 23 Westlawn Road, located in the neighborhood of 1519 Forest Avenue.

We are unable to attend the scheduled public hearing regarding conditional use appeal for property located at 1519 Forest Avenue and wish to address the board and its agenda.

We wish to go on the record in strong opposition to the plan, as outlined and updated online, and also to go on record in strong opposition to the plan, as initially stated in the mailing to the property owners in the vicinity of 1519 Forest Avenue, suggesting that a rezoning of the property was part the agenda. Our questions and concerns follow:

Because the plan indicates it is intended as juvenile reintegration into the community, we are interested in knowing why these individuals would not be returned to the communities from where they came. We realize there may be an occasional occupant that is from the neighborhood of 1519 Forest Avenue, and are far much less objected to that, be that the case; however, we

believe most of the occupants would not have been from this particular community initially and should not be reintegrated into this community; rather, they should be returned to their previous communities.

Since these juveniles committed crimes while minors, we realize there is an issue of non-disclosure that would apply to what types of crimes the prospective residents had previously committed. This puts our neighborhood at unknown risk going forward and, since we are not entitled to learn of their criminal activities past and paid for, we feel we are more at risk for an uncertain quality of our community going forward.

We would like a detailed explanation of what "juvenile reintegration into the community" constitutes exactly. From the time the residents arrive to the property, what is the true picture of the reintegration plan? We are familiar with some activities of the previous and possibly current occupants of this property, and we strongly oppose the continuing deterioration of the neighborhood, should this plan be allowed to go forward.

What is the age group of the individuals expected to reside at 1519 Forest Avenue?

How many individuals are expected to reside at 1519 Forest Avenue?

How many male?

How many female?

Are the residents adult-supervised and, if so, would supervision be maintained on a 24/7 basis or other, part-time basis?

What is the benefit to the City of Portland?

What is the benefit to the property owners and neighbors in the vicinity of 1519 Forest Avenue? We point out, though it is known to you, the Riverton Community School is nearby and, with the limited information available to us and the unknown history of the prospective occupants, we feel more consideration should be given to reconsider this location for the integration.

Why not Stroudwater, Munjoy Hill, West End, Deering Center or other location? We are interested in knowing just how concerned you might be if this was your neighborhood.

How was 1519 Forest Avenue selected for this reintegration program?

We would like to know what the tax modification will be to the property owners in the vicinity of 1519 Forest Avenue, if this conditional use appeal is indeed passed to move forward, especially since this plan will likely devalue our properties. And naturally, with property devaluation comes a tax reduction accordingly. What is your plan to accommodate the tax picture, based on the inevitable devaluation of the properties, if this plan is to go forward. Further, if the taxpayers are paying for this facility, and I believe they/we are, why place the facility in a higher tax area such as Portland, which already reports well known issues with affordable rents? This makes no economic sense.

Why not retain the facility in South Portland, whether at the current facility or a new one in closer proximity to the South Portland facility? If the reintegration facility goes forward in Portland, what is the offset in tax accommodation between South Portland tax payers and Portland tax payers?

We reiterate, we, Judy Lewis, Sonya Moore and Stephen Hamilton, strongly oppose your plan to allow a sheltered care group home for a Department of Corrections community reintegration program for juveniles at the property of 1519 Forest Avenue. We feel this puts our neighborhood, our personal property and the safety of our personal selves at peril.

We appreciate you allowing us to voice our thoughts, concerns and questions, and we look forward to the responses to the questions.

Thank you.