

SUBJECT: Proposed text amendment for §1419-26 Special Assistance Shelter.

PURPOSE:

To obtain approval from the City Planning Commission (CPC) on text amendments related to Special Assistance Shelters.

PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT:

§ 1419-26. Special Assistance Shelter.

“Special assistance shelter” must be developed in compliance with the following:

- a) Special assistance shelters must provide at least 50 square feet per person in the sleeping facilities and
- b) The sleeping facilities of each Special Assistance Shelter are limited to 50 individuals.

JUSTIFICATION:

New State programs are setting up dormitory style living quarters for persons released from jail and prisons in apartments and other facilities. Recent amendments provide the tools needed by staff to ensure that these facilities are appropriately located. This amendment will limit the size of shelters to further mitigate potential impacts on the neighborhoods.

PUBLIC STAFF CONFERENCE:

A Public Staff Conference was held on November 1, 2007. Attendees representing Over the Rhine, Clifton Heights and the West End supported the changes to the Special Assistance Shelter definition, but requested that the language for the Congregate Housing definition be made stronger. Attendees felt that the Congregate Housing definition needed to be more explicit, either by clearly stating ‘long or short-term housing’ in the definition, or by defining the number of people per room and the eating facility style. Several attendees felt that objective criteria, such as the number of persons per room, would allow for easier regulation without monitoring the length of a person’s stay.

Related to this, Attendees also felt that the definition for Transitional Housing should be made stronger, and include changes like those made to the Special Assistance Shelter definition. They felt that Transitional Housing should explicitly include ‘long or short term’ housing, and be described as a style of housing that offers private apartment-style dwelling units, facilitates working and job-searching during the day, and provides limited evening programming. A suggestion was also made that the term ‘barracks’ be used to describe unacceptable housing conditions and an unacceptable number of persons per room.

Attendees further suggested that the definition for Community Service Facility be revised to more clearly state that “community” means more than the immediate area or neighborhood in which such a facility is located.

A second Public Staff Conference was held on February 13, 2008. There was no major issue with this specific text amendment. A comment was made that 50 square feet per person in a sleeping facility is way too small.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Planning Department staff recommends that the City Planning Commission approve the text amendment as written.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

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4/26/07; 9/13/07; 1/10/08
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APPROVED:

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