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BALTIMORE COUNTY
BOARD OF APPEALS

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

TERRY F. HICKEY, Esq.
Director,
Department of Housing and Community Development

November 16, 2021

Baltimore County Board of Appeals
Jefferson Building
105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 203
Towson, Maryland 21204
Sent via email: appealsboard@baltimorecountymd.gov

RE: *Comments of the Department of Housing and Community Development Director Terry F. Hickey, in the matter of: Saint Rita's Roman Catholic Congregation, Inc./Family Crisis Center of Baltimore County*
Case number: 21-105-SPHXA
Property Location: 2907 Dunleer Road
Hearing Dates: November 18 and 23, 2021

Housing is equivalent to safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children. The Family Crisis Center ("FCC") is a part of the Continuum of Care ("CoC") Homeless Roundtable, which serves as the local planning body coordinating housing and related services for homeless individuals and families. FCC was allotted twelve (12) of the County's 62 Emergency Housing Vouchers awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") in order to assist individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability. FCC is also a grant recipient for the provision of Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), domestic violence counseling, shelter, intervention, outreach, and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault hotline. FCC has been, and continues to be, the provider of critically needed resources for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children in Baltimore County.

This proposed project would further a critical shared mission by providing urgent and necessary bridge housing options through the addition of twelve (12) units, expanding current capacity from two (2) families to fourteen (14) families. Domestic violence is one of the primary causes of homelessness for women and their children in the United States and when a victim of domestic violence chooses to leave their abusive partner, safe and affordable housing is one of the primary barriers they will face for themselves and their children.

This facility would be the only one of its kind in Baltimore County and would further the provision of services, including a coordinated community approach to serving domestic violence victims. The site would provide shelter and meals for the survivors and their children, crisis intervention and ongoing counseling, case management services (housing advocacy, medical referrals, job preparation, legal advocacy, resources and referrals) transportation expenses, support groups, parenting groups, children's play groups, and school placement for children. This temporary housing facility will give survivors the time and services they need to achieve goals for long-term safety and stability. Absent access to this vital housing resource, survivors may have no other option than to return to their abuser's home or face homelessness.

Terry F. Hickey

Terry F. Hickey, Esq., Director
Department of Housing and Community Development

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Tammy Zahner

From: Mary Clay
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Appeals Board
Cc: Terry Hickey; Milana Vayner; Gontrum, John; Amie Post
Subject: Comments of the Department of Housing and Community Development Director
Attachments: Bd of Appeals Case #21-105-SPHXA.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter from Director Terry F. Hickey, Esq., Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary T. Clay
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Department of Housing and Community Development
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