



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: February 26, 2019

SUBJECT: COUNCIL MOTION OF 1/29/2019 BY COUNCILOR KENNEDY
REQUEST CITY MANAGER INSTRUCT DPD TO ASSIST THE DWELLING HOUSE OF HOPE IN
FINDING AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM FOR WOMEN

In mid-January the Economic Development Office fielded an inquiry from Ms. Levenia Furusa-Mavingire of the Dwelling House of Hope Inc. regarding the organization's search for a location to house a residential recovery program for recovering addicts of drugs and alcohol.

On Thursday, February 14th, the Director of Economic Development and staff met with Ms. Furusa-Mavingire, along with Pastor Rafael Najem of the Community Christian Fellowship, and Pastor Cecilio Hernandez of Iglesia Cristiana Ebenezer Asambleas de Dios - both of whom are supporting Ms. Furusa-Mavingire in this endeavor.

The group expressed an interest in finding a property that could house people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, which would also have dedicated common areas, as well as space for programming and office functions. Further, they inquired as to whether the City owned any properties that it could transfer to the organization for the aforementioned use.

The organization was encouraged to acquire a property being sold on the private market, and that such a process would require the funds for acquisition, renovation, and running of the program. It was suggested that the organization could contact other organizations that have experience with these types of projects, such as The Lowell House, Coalition for a Better Acre, and The Megan House Foundation to understand the process.

The Economic Development Office has since followed up with Ms. Furusa-Mavingire and Pastors Najem and Hernandez to provide them with four (4) private property listings that could potentially meet their needs. Additionally, information was provided regarding the City's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) program, which has the ability to partially fund affordable housing projects. The HOME program would be able to fund permanent (as opposed to temporary) housing, and could only fund a small portion of an already financed project.

We will continue to remain in touch with the Dwelling House of Hope Inc. and provide relevant updates or property listings as they become available. The DPD also stands ready to answer any follow-up inquiries from the organization.

DNT/ns

cc: Andrew Shapiro, Director of Economic Development