

Jennifer Swokowski

From: Mark Rohrer <Mark.Rohrer@WICOURTS.GOV>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Jennifer Swokowski
Subject: External: Public Input regarding conditional use permit for Lotus recovery home

To the members of the Manitowoc City Council and Mayor Justin Nickels:

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a prior commitment. Nonetheless, I wish to submit this email in support of the Lotus Recovery Home's request for a conditional use permit. I have been a Circuit Judge in Manitowoc County for 10 years. Prior to that I was the District Attorney for Manitowoc County for 10 years. Over the last 10 years a strong partnership has been formed and continues to exist to address drug addiction in Manitowoc County. The partnership includes members of the Judiciary, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, Probation and Parole, Law enforcement, Human Services, Citizens and the County Executive for Manitowoc County.

As a result of this partnership the County was able to obtain a grant to address addiction in the County. A drug court was formed and has been operational under the grant for a number of years. I have been involved in the drug court since its inception. There have been over forty participants that have graduated from the program. A number of these individuals have had their children returned to them and are gainfully employed and are contributing members of society. The grant has also helped treat countless other members in our county who are battling addiction.

One of the critical needs to address those who are suffering from addiction is the need for recovery homes. Without such homes treatment and success would not work. Some of the individuals are homeless and do not have the means to afford housing. Furthermore, recovery homes provide a safe environment to house individuals who have a similar mindset, that being conquering addiction. Also these homes have frequent meetings to assist those battling addiction. Furthermore, the recovery homes provide structure, restrictions and accountability to those who are living in such a setting.

In conclusion, recovery homes are appropriate and necessary to a community that wishes to address addiction rather than ignore it. The City of Manitowoc is a community that supports addressing addiction. I therefore recommend that you adopt the conditional use permit.

Sincerely
Mark Rohrer
Circuit Judge Manitowoc County

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