

Sydney Flynn
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I am a community member of Halls located in north Knox County. Our neighborhood was recently made aware that there was a request for the potential of special use of a lot located within a mile radius of Halls Elementary School.

I am aware that the staff will make a recommendation prior to the meeting, but this is an injustice without consulting the local neighborhood, the people who call this quaint area home. Due to JourneyPure requesting a special use of the lot, I have listed neighborhood facts below stating why this area is an inappropriate location for a rehab housing facility. I believe this would help shed information on the area before the staff makes their recommendation at the public hearing.

In addition, I would like to know the process of this and when meetings will be held so that the local community can provide input on the potential changing environment of their home. There is no need for a special use change to this property, and to do so would detrimentally affect the surrounding area. We are located in a residential community. There are areas in the community that are better designated for that purpose without placement in a residential area.

This parcel for potential special use would be doing the Andersonville Pike area of the Halls community an injustice by not protecting the integrity of this neighborhood.

As you may be aware, in 2017 Angelic Ministries purchased the former Salem Baptist Church building with ideas to convert the location into a rehabilitation center or halfway house. That proposal was met with a great deal of controversy and animosity for the same reasons that community members, like myself, are now opposing the current measure to convert the former Tennova Healthcare Hospice building into a 44 bed recovery housing facility for outpatient substance abuse treatment. This building is located directly across the street, 0.3 miles, from Halls Elementary School, is 0.2 miles from the Elmcroft of Halls, and is 0.6 miles from Halls Middle School and Halls High School.

Halls Elementary School is a public elementary school that has a student body of 780 children between Pre-K and 5th grade.

Elmcroft of Halls is an assisted living facility that currently provides care for 50 residents, 17 of which are cared for in the Memory Unit for Alzheimer's and dementia. Halls Middle School and Halls High School are also public schools with approximately 1,054 and 1,275 students, respectively. Although my main concern is in regards to this particularly vulnerable population, I am also concerned about the property value of the homes in this area that will be affected by this proposal, should it pass. According

to research, facilities such as drug treatment facilities cause a 3.4-4.6% decline in property values.

My family, like so many others, is no stranger to addiction and neither is our community. I do believe the services of a facility are much needed. My concerns are strictly related to the location of this proposed center as I do not believe these types of facilities should be in residential areas. This center is limited to individuals seeking treatment voluntarily and is not compelled by court order. This means the individual can leave treatment at any time, without completing the program. It also means there is the possibility of more drugs being brought into to our community by those coming to or visiting the facility. School zones are zero tolerance when it comes to drugs, yet a recovery housing facility is being proposed 0.3 miles from this community's elementary school. I do not believe this is in the best interest of our children or our community. I respectfully request that these concerns are considered and urge you to vote against this issue during the November 12th hearing

I would like to schedule a meeting with you to help present all of the facts and show you around our neighborhood before the staff makes their recommendation prior to the public hearing as well as share a petition from the local neighborhood.