

Joe Lake

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to discuss the proposed requests for rezoning of the subject line cases (11-F-20-UR and 9-A-20-RZ). The first rezoning request is for vegetation followed by a second request for Multi-family Residential rezoning, both on the same property in the Karns area on Zion Lane off Ball Road.

While I have been unable to attend meetings due to the timelines of information about them being shared, it has come to my attention by people who were present that Angelic Ministries International inc ("Angelic Ministries") proposes to locate a Boarding House on this property. While the term "Boarding House" was used it is evident that this will actually be a rehabilitation center based on the Angelic Ministries description, which was "a place where detoxed addicts would go when they are not yet ready to reenter society".

While I applaud Angelic Ministries overall mission, I am strongly OPPOSED to this requested notion of rezoning this location. This opposition is based on multiple facts

1) This facility will be placed in close proximity (less than half a mile) from several middle class, residential subdivisions including my own. I would estimate that there are well over 200 homes with a majority of those having families with small children. The location of such a facility, with people by their own admission as not fit to reenter society, poses a substantial risk to the residents of this community. This is especially true given the lack of proximity to police and other first responder stations. The way Angelic Ministries has proposed running the facility gives them no recourse or ability to require residents of their facility to stay or be restrained.

2) I question the capability of Angelic Ministries to be able to appropriately manage and control such a facility. In reviewing public records, I have found this document on Transitional Housing provided by the state (<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/correction/documents/TransitionalHousingList.pdf>) in it it lists Angelic Ministries hosting three facilities with a total of 11 beds. The facility and rezoning measure indicate a much larger facility that I do not have confidence is within this companies capabilities to manage. They do not have a proven record with large facilities.

3) I question the commitment and honest of Angelic Ministries. In the meeting they have indicated that they will not allow sex offenders nor violent offenders to be admitted at this facility. However, as the rezoning is currently presented, there is nothing stopping them from doing just that and admitting them. Again, looking at the Tennessee document mentioned above, all three of their current facilities look to allow for violent offenders. IF they are committed to their exclusion criteria I believe it needs to be explicitly stated in the commissions rezoning documents to be able to hold responsible and accountable in the event they decide to change their minds. Past articles (<https://www.knoxtntoday.com/earl-promises-no-drug-rehab-halfway-house-former-salem-church/>, <https://www.knoxtntoday.com/angelic-ministries-assembles-community-advisory-group-old-salem-baptist-site/>) indicate a history of misinformation and mistrust in other areas Angelic Ministries has attempted to establish a facility. To date i see no change in the plan to indicate addressing issues or winning trust of the neighboring residents.

4) By Rev. Tony Earl's (Angelic Ministries Executive Director) previous statements, this is NOT an ideal location for such a facility. In a October 2017 [Knoxnews.com](https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/2017/10/23/halls-church-angelic-ministries-not-drug-rehab-homeless-shelter/792133001/) Article (<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/2017/10/23/halls-church-angelic-ministries-not-drug-rehab-homeless-shelter/792133001/>) he is quoted as saying that a previous location in Halls they were pursuing is "really a wonderful complex for groups to come in and (volunteer) in the inner city, and it's good for our men's program because it's on the bus line" The location proposed of Zion rode is NOT inner city and it is NOT on a bus line.

Lastly, doing simple Google searches for "Angelic Ministries" yields results where it is evident they have tried to do such things in the past in locations all over Knoxville and have been meet with the same opposition. Issues of safety, ability, and general operations all have been voiced. To that point they attempted to rezone this same property in recent history (less than 2 years) and were meet with objections of how they will guarantee the safety of the surrounding areas. Angelic Ministries did not then, nor does now have an answer for these and instead gives time for it to die down and seems to try another place. This is not a company nor a facility I want in my area. It would be negligent on the commissions part to allow such a facility, with the increased risk to the population with no discernible reward or advantage to be had, to be permitted.

To conclude, I will plainly state again my strong OBJECTION to these rezoning requests. As a neighbor, Knox county resident, and voter I strongly believe such a facility does not belong near residential communities and Angelic Ministries mission is best served either growing their current facilities or finding other property well removed from the people of Knox county.

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