

Dear Liz Albertson:

This is in reference to 11-F-20-UR, the request by Angelic Ministries to establish a "Mens' Boarding Home" on Zion Lane, off Ball Road and the many neighborhoods there.

Before retirement I worked with the Virginia Department of Corrections and among my many duties was the establishment of halfway houses, transitional homes for those leaving incarceration, drug treatment facilities, and other corrections and community-based programs.

We had to do an immense amount of preparation and planning and one of the highest priorities was involving the local community. When we did not do this we received minimal cooperation, little success and got threatened a few times.

This "Angelic Ministries" group, from what I can determine, seems to have done no community outreach, no invitations to discuss the project, no good-will building in local neighborhoods, but instead seems to be working under cover of Covid 19 social contact restrictions to push this proposal through the Commission.

I encourage you and the Planning Commission to put a hold on this project until proper neighborhood meetings, including question and answer sessions, can be held. I ask this on behalf of my grandchildren who live near the facility. I do not want unsupervised recovering (or not recovering) drug addicts wandering their neighborhood. As far as I can tell, there is almost zero security to prevent this happening. This project is at risk of creating much hostility from the surrounding neighborhoods, and I encourage you to reconsider the way this is being handled.

Thank you for your attention.

Richard Smith