

ADVISORY COMMUNICATION



To: City Council Item No. IX. B.

From: MJ Lamon, Liaison
Human Rights and Relations Commission

Date: August 27, 2014

Subject: Human Rights and Relations Commission –Support for Edina Planning Commission
Zoning Changes

Attachments: Advisory Communication from the Human Rights and Relations Commission

Action Requested:

None requested.

Situation:

The Edina Comprehensive Plan has been amended in the past to encompass needs reflective of the changes in our community and its priorities. The increase in homeless youths, their needs and the availability of private non-profit resources has been brought to the City of Edina’s attention by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

Background:

The Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission met for their regular meeting on August 26, 2014 and discussed the upcoming Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative project.

Assessment:

It is the mission of the Human Rights and Relations Commission to advocate for the basic human rights and needs of everyone. Enacting the Planning Commission’s changes and allowing the 39 unit apartment building is an excellent opportunity to show the City’s support for human rights and needs of homeless youth in our community.

Recommendation:

The Human Rights and Relations Commission, at the August 26, 2014 regular meeting, voted to recommend that the Edina City Council enact the changes from the Edina Planning Commission and take all other actions necessary to support the initiative.

Advisory Communication

Recommendation to Edina City Council from Edina Human Rights and Relations Commission August 26, 2014

Low income and special needs housing is desirable for diverse, healthy communities; as is business, quality schools, housing for the majority and medical and social services.

The Edina Comprehensive Plan has been amended in the past to encompass needs reflective of the changes in our community and its priorities. The increase in homeless youths, their needs and the availability of private non-profit resources coupled with vacant real estate within Edina has been brought to the attention of the City by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. Its plans to convert the TCF Bank Building into a 39 unit apartment building with space for counseling services to assist homeless youth by providing housing, educational resources and job finding services is modeled after successful projects elsewhere in the Twin Cities Area.

The sponsor estimates approximately 250 homeless youth live in the Edina-Bloomington-Richfield area. This would be the first special purpose apartment building for this community in the Western suburbs.

Accordingly, the EHRRC in its role as the advisor to the City Council on human relations and matters within the scope of its mission:

RECOMMENDS AND SUPPORTS the Edina Planning Commission's recommended zoning changes and plan of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to create a 39 unit apartment building for homeless youth with space for relevant social services directed to such youth with the further recommendation that the City Council enact such changes and take all other actions necessary to support such initiative.