

HAVEN HOUSE

Planning Commission – October 14, 2014

Mission of Haven House

“Haven House is a faith-based organization providing supported and structured living opportunities to foster healing and self-sufficiency for women coming out of prison.”

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Topics

The need for housing for persons coming out of prison is great

How Haven House will operate

Haven House meets the requirements for a conditional use permit

Haven House – it is not a halfway house

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Why is Haven House needed?

The need for housing for the formerly incarcerated is immense.

Nationwide: 725,000 people are released from prison annually

Statewide: 6,300 people in custody – 5,500 men, 800 women (2013 – Alaska Dept. of Corrections)

Juneau: 60 women on supervised probation/parole

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Persons coming out of prison need housing.

The National Housing Law Project, “According to criminal justice officials, . . . finding housing is the biggest challenge faced by individuals returning to the community.”

Alaska Prisoner Reentry Task Force, “Without a stable residence, it is nearly impossible for newly released individuals to reconnect positively to a community.”
(quoting Council of State Governments Justice Center)

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Key features of Haven House

- Provide housing for up to nine women who have recently been released from prison
- Select residents by a thorough screening process
- One-month trial period
- Six-month commitment (1 month + 5 months)
- Two-year maximum stay
- Women agree to abide by House Rules
- The purpose of House Rules is to create a safe, sober, stable, structured, group living situation

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Key features of Haven House (cont'd)

- Individual Action Plan by each resident
- Peer support and peer accountability
- Referrals to community services
- Abide by conditions of probation/parole
- Cooperation by HH staff with probation/parole officers
- Performing household responsibilities

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Haven House - Plan of Operation

Careful selection of residents – must have recommendation of probation/parole officer

Clear written House Rules

Resident house manager

Nighttime supervisor (usually manager)

Staff present or available 24/7

Phone number to report problems

No sex offenders

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Haven House Rules include these subjects:

No violation of conditions of probation/parole

Visitor Policy: only legal relatives

Curfew: 10:00 p.m. unless staff approves
exception

Absences from Home: 48 hour unauthorized
absence will lead to dismissal

No drugs or alcohol on the property:
dismissal for violating this rule

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Haven House is modeled after New Hope Safe Living House

Alaska Correctional Ministries (ACM) has two transitional homes in Anchorage for persons released from prison: one for men and one for women.

New Hope Safe Living House is the home for women. Alaska Reentry Task Force says that ACM uses “best practices in mentoring, case management and transitional services program.”

Haven House is modeled after New Hope Safe Living House.

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Will Haven House materially endanger public safety? No.

Persons on probation/parole can live anywhere.

Haven House will be a safer and more structured residence than almost all other residences in Juneau.

Juneau District Probation Office and Dept of Corrections support Haven House.

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Will Haven House substantially decrease property values? No.

Research shows no.

If house is well-maintained and residents do not create disturbances, no adverse effect on property values.

Larger factors determine property values

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Will Haven House be out of harmony with other property in neighborhood? No.

Physical characteristics: single family house so it looks like others in neighborhood.

Family of 12 or 13 were prior residents.

Allowed uses include a group home, day care for children or adults of 8 or less, home occupations, duplex, single family with accessory apartments.

Allowed with conditional use permits -- day care for 9 – 12; rooming, boarding houses, bed and breakfasts; nursing care, assisted living; correctional facilities.

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Is Haven House a halfway house?

In a halfway house, residents . . .

1. are in the CUSTODY of DOC.
2. are ORDERED to live at the halfway house.
3. would be in prison (LCCC in Juneau) if not in the halfway house (GHS)
4. are guilty of the crime of escape if absent from halfway house w/o lawful authority
5. will receive credit for “time served”

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A halfway house . . .

6. A halfway house is operated under contract with the DOC.
7. Halfway houses almost always house substantially more than nine people.

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This adds up to the key difference.

Halfway house = INVOLUNTARY

Haven House = VOLUNTARY

Haven House has none of the
characteristics of a halfway house.

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Haven House is part of the solution

Juneau needs a reentry home for women coming out of prison who want to change their lives.

Haven House is patterned after successful reentry homes in Anchorage.

Haven House will be a safe home and will be a positive addition to the neighborhood.

Haven House is a modest step to helping Juneau become a better, safer community for all.

For more information, call 988-7233 or email

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