

City Council

Agenda Cover Memorandum

Meeting Date: April 7, 2008

Item Title: Summary of staff meeting regarding proposed PADS Program

Action Requested:

- Approval
- For discussion
- Feedback requested
- For your information

Staff Contact: Carrie Davis, Acting Director of CP&D

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Background:

City staff, Mayor Frimark and Alderman Ryan met with representatives of the Park Ridge Ministerial Association on Monday, March 31, 2008, to learn more about the Association's proposal to open a PADS shelter at St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 306 South Prospect Avenue.

PADS is an acronym for Public Action to Deliver Shelter. The goal of the program is to provide hospitality, food and emergency, temporary shelter to homeless people from October 1 through April 30 every year. Shelters are open from 6:45 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. Each PADS site is staffed by volunteers who prepare, supervise and clean the facilities used for the shelter. The volunteers also prepare dinner, breakfast and a bag lunch for those who stay at the shelter. Individuals must be members of the program and are subject to background checks before they can stay at any site.

The PADS program is already located in about a dozen communities in the northwest suburbs. According to the Association, there is a gap in service in the Park Ridge area, which is why there is interest in opening a site in the City. Shelters currently exist in Des Plaines and Evanston, but there is nothing in between. Representatives of the Association discussed in detail the growing demand for social services by many people in the area, including assistance with food, clothing and shelter. The demand has gone beyond what individual churches can reasonably accommodate. In the case of Park Ridge, St. Mary's Episcopal Church would host the shelter and the other churches in the Association would provide volunteers to support the program. The Association hopes to begin operation of the shelter in October 2008. Service would be provided just one night a week, on Sunday, for the first year.

City staff and the Association decided to meet to provide an opportunity for staff and the elected official representatives to learn more about the program and to begin discussing what City review process is necessary. In addition, both elected officials and staff have received an increasing number of calls from the community regarding the proposed program.

After hearing more about the program, it was determined that the Association should provide copies of proposed building plans to the Building Division in Community Preservation and Development showing where the shelter and its facilities would be located in St. Mary's. Staff needs to review those plans to determine which building, fire, health or other codes apply.

Furthermore, Carrie Davis is working with the City Attorney's office to determine what public review process, if any, such as a special use, is required. Federal and state laws must be considered, along with the regulations in our local Zoning Ordinance. Staff will advise the Council once it is clarified what process may be necessary.

Recommendation:

None.

Budget Implications:

Does Action Require an Expenditure of Funds: Yes No

If Yes, Total Cost:

If Yes, is this a Budgeted Item: Yes No

Attachments:

- Facts about Journeys from PADS to HOPE
- Journeys from PADS to HOPE. Homelessness: A Quiet Crisis in the Northwest Suburbs
- Journeys from PADS to HOPE. 2007-2008 PADS Program Emergency Shelter Sites