

Date: July 2, 2007

To: Planning and Zoning Commission

From: University Area Community Council

Subject: Case #2007-094 – An Ordinance Amending AMC Title 21
Regarding Community Correctional Residential Centers

The Board of the University Area Community Council (UACC) requests postponement of the hearing on the above amendment in light of the issues listed below.

The Board of UACC met concerning this amendment to AMC 21 and we have a number of concerns with the changes to Title 21 in regards Community Correctional Residential Centers (CCRCs). Our response to the amendment follows:

1. We agree with the restriction to 30 residents per CCRC.
2. We are concerned about the removal of the wording from Title 21.50.035 that restricts residents to misdemeanants. The UACC's concern is that some CCRCs are located in property zoned in B1-B, B-2, B-3 and B-4, but are adjacent to areas zoned residential. We would like to see wording that restricts CCRCs with felons to areas zoned B1-B, B-2, B-3 and B-4 AND NOT adjacent to residential property. If the restriction against felons residing in CCRCs is lifted we would like the following added to the ordinance: "Felons still serving a sentence (not on probation or parole) may only be housed in a secure CCRC a minimum of 1/4 mile from any residential setting." In addition we would like to restrict CCRC residents to non-violent offenders.
3. After reading the staff report we understand the reasoning behind decreasing the distance between CCRCs, but would like to see wording that discourages clustering of CCRCs in one section of town. We would also like to see that when planning where new CCRCs will be located community councils are notified and included in the planning process. In addition, we question why the CCRCs need to be near a hospital.

This clusters CCRCs in two areas of town and disproportionately affects surrounding residential areas.

In summary, we would like to see the Municipality address the issue of reintegration of incarcerated people into society in a manner that creates a safe place for them and also for the residents of the community in which CCRCs are placed. We believe this is an issue that needs to be addressed in a more public way than this ordinance change. In light of these questions we request that this hearing be postponed until these issues can be resolved.

There needs to be a definition for CCRCs and an explanation of why these changes are requested.

For example, Kenai uses the following criteria when deciding where CCRCs are located:

1. 1/2 mile from schools, senior facilities, daycare centers
2. proximity to licensed alcohol businesses
3. transportation & public services
4. accessibility to jobs and medical services, counseling