

March 28, 2025 - Rochelle Deriso Email to Mayor and District 1

From: Rochelle Deriso <rrderiso@mpsaz.org>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 11:51 AM
To: Mayor; District 1
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Legacy Recovery - a problem - please help

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Hello Mayor Freeman,

Thank You for what you do in dedication to our community. I am also dedicated to this wonderful city. I grew-up in, was educated in, worship and work in Mesa. I have always been a believer of being involved in and contributing to the community I live in. I do this as a Math and AVID teacher at Mountain View High School.

At Mountain View, I am the chairperson of the SIAC committee as well as the AVID program coordinator. I am pursuing my second Master's degree through NAU, in Educational Administration, as well as participating in two leadership classes in the community, one through MPS and the other through Hispanic Leadership Institute- East Valley. Needless to say, I am a contributing resident of Mesa. I love this city. It is my forever home.

I live right next door to the proposed site of Legacy Recovery Center, at 2338 E Minton St. I am not happy about the *Transitional* Rehab and Therapy center being right next door, but would, in any other situation, just deal with it without making a fuss. However, it is extremely concerning that the center is within immediate access to Hermosa Elementary School. That property and mine share a back wall with the school. We are separated from Elementary children merely by 8 inches of block wall.

The area immediately behind our back walls is where the PE classes conduct their activities. Eight inches of block wall separates addicts of various kinds and those with mental health issues from hundreds of kids at active and organized play every day.

The property is the second one on our block, only one residential property away from where most of the students access and leave the campus at the start and end of the school day. Hundreds of kids walk by the front of the property twice daily. Those of us in opposition to this rehab center have recorded videos to show the immense amount of foot and bicycle traffic. In talking with a woman at the State Licensing Compliance department for these kinds of facilities, I learned that this Transitional Rehab center is not designated as a "secure" facility, as defined by the State. This means the temporary residents are encouraged not to interact with the community, but are not restricted from doing so. There is seemingly nothing but a verbal guideline to prevent the residents from interacting with the hundreds of children that walk or ride their bikes past this property twice a day, five times a week.

Rehab and recovery is a messy process. It is not linear and often not continuously forward. There are wins and losses. Losses involve manifestation of the problem behavior that landed these residents in this transitional facility. The implications of the danger are gigantic. With its proximity to our community children so immediate and regular, it is not a matter of if something bad happens to one of our children, but when. This is why zoning for these types of properties is restricted to Special Use permits.

The city granted a permit to this facility to operate as a residential treatment center. The standard practice for residential centers is to host residents for periods of time of a year or longer. Legacy

Recovery Center has self-disclosed via their website and conversations with Richard Miller, the owner, that the standard practice for their programs is to host residents for 30 days. Thirty days is far from a year. Thirty days means the residents of this rehab center are in transition. This facility, in standard practice, is a Transitional Rehab Center, not a Residential Treatment Center. I and my concerned community of parents, neighbors, educators and others, believe that the facility misled the city in its application for the permit to operate as a residential treatment center, knowing that disclosure of the standard practice of only 30 day stays would require a Special Use permit.

Please, I implore you, pull the issued permit and require this facility to apply for a Special Use permit. This is not about neighbors simply not wanting a place like this nearby. It is about protecting our most vulnerable community members, our children, who are not able to protect themselves from the manifestation of potentially very dangerous behavior. Are we, are you, willing to allow even one of our precious innocent ones to become a victim?

Rehab and therapy is good and right and needed. But there are zones where it is restricted because of the dangers involved by the process. Next to a public school of any kind, is not a safe place for this facility. Please act to protect our children.

I would love to see both of you at the public meeting today at 3pm at the proposed address. If you will attend, please notify me, I will even leave my driveway open for your vehicles. Parking will be a mess as many of our community plan to show up to the meeting. I will give you VIP parking for the meeting, so you are minimally inconvenienced.

I would also love to see the city hold a special counsel to act upon pulling the residential permit and requiring Legacy Recovery Center to apply for a Special Use permit. By definition, this is what is required for the type of facility and services provided therein.

Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Rochelle Deriso

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted] correspondence with Mesa Public Schools are subject to public disclosure under the Arizona Public Records Law unless the content is exempt from disclosure by a state or federal law.

March 28, 2025 - Amanda Misinco Email
to Yvonne Anaya and Councilmember Adams

[REDACTED]

From: Amanda Misinco <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Yvonne Anaya; Councilmember Adams
Subject: Re: Hermosa Vista - Substance Abuse Rehab Center

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Yvonne and Mr. Adams,

I appreciate both of your responses. My family will be in attendance for the meeting this afternoon, and hope to voice our concerns.

Just to bring to your attention, I have included content from Legacy Recovery Center stating their treatment period is 30 days. This is far from a long-term tenant situation. See the direct link below:

<https://www.legacyrecoverycenter.com/our-facility/>

A Different Kind of Treatment Facility

Legacy Recovery Center provides substance addiction and mental health treatment in a non-institutional setting. Our building, amenities and grounds resemble a large, upscale residence more than a typical rehabilitation center. Designed to convey privacy, comfort and safety, we believe that our facility offers the ideal environment for introspection and healing.

A peaceful, stress-free setting helps you stay on track and get the most out of your journey to recovery. While deciding if you wish to seek treatment at Legacy Recovery Center, please review the information on these pages. **You want to be sure that our accommodations meet your needs for comfort and privacy during the 30-day treatment period.**

I appreciate your attention to the matter.

Kindly,

Dr. Amanda Misinco, O.D.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(714) 793-7464

On Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 9:12 AM Yvonne Anaya <Yvonne.Anaya@mesaaz.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for reaching out to the City of Mesa.

For some background, Community Residences are types of residential homes for individuals with disabilities that, among other things, are a subject of federal law. They are allowed in certain zoning districts and several factors impact whether they can operate based upon state licensing or certifications, or if the Community Residence needs to seek a specific type of approval from the City of Mesa. The length of time tenants stay in a Community Residence and other tenancy requirements is one of those factors. The City has a Frequently Asked Questions section that has additional information about Community Residences (see attached).

The City received and reviewed a permit application for a Community Residence located at 2338 E. Minton Street in January of this year. The application submitted, the first step in the process, was for a "Family Community Residence". Family Community Residences are intended for relatively permanent living arrangements, and they do not need the specific type of approval to operate from the City if they are licensed with the State. However, a final license is required from the State for this project. **There is a community meeting at the property today, March 28th at 3:00 p.m. if you're able to attend.**

Based on inquiries from several residents, City staff is in contact with the State to obtain the application information submitted. Staff will be able to provide you with more details once we review that information.

Thanks again for the inquiry.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Anaya

Executive Assistant to the Mayor | City of Mesa

480.644.2396



March 28, 2025 - Erin Lyman Email to Mayor

From: Erin Lyman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 7:27 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Concerns Regarding Legacy Recovery Center

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Mayor Freeman, I am sharing with you the email that I sent to City Manager, Chris Brady. As a resident in the Hermosa Vista Elementary neighborhood, I am hoping to draw your attention to what is happening with Legacy Recovery Center and asking you to look into it. There were at least 100 people at the meeting this afternoon concerned about what this will mean for our community. We left without answers to most of the questions that were being asked and concerned that they are not seeking the proper permits for the program they are wanting to run.

I attended a community meeting at 2338 E Minton Street in Mesa with representatives from Legacy Recovery Center regarding their plans to open a substance abuse and mental health treatment center there.

This is very concerning given the proximity to Hermosa Vista Elementary School. The Legacy representatives were not able to provide satisfactory information on safety protocols for the facility. They were also vague on the type of addiction they would be treating. This isn't safe for the children in our neighborhood.

Additionally, there are questions surrounding the type of treatment they provide and whether it is short term or long term. They indicated they recommend a minimum 30 day stay and also indicated it is a 4-6 week program but "clients can stay as long as they like." They wouldn't answer how long people stay, on average, in their other locations. They are providing conflicting information and I'm asking that the City of Mesa take a closer look at the type permit required to operate this type of facility and deny the permits if they can't provide adequate information showing they are operating within the law.

The residents in this neighborhood are overwhelmingly not in support of Legacy opening a program here.

Erin Lyman
[REDACTED]



ReplyForward

Add reaction

March 30, 2025 - Jocelyn Condon Email to District 1

[REDACTED]

From: Jocelyn Condon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 10:10 AM
To: District 1
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center does not belong behind HV elementary

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Hello Rich,

We wish you had been here Friday afternoon when Legacy Recovery Center held a public meeting at 3:00 hoping not very many could attend due to work and school. Boy, were they wrong!! They were woefully unprepared for the concerned residents (300 showed up)! A neighbor went home to get a speaker, microphone and extension cord so we could hear the very soft spoken Dr. , CEO and legal counsel. They were not forthcoming in their answers to questions, like why has their website changed over the past week regarding the type and length of stay a person would have? They said sex addiction could be treated here, and they are willing to risk our most vulnerable population to that exposure.

What happens if this company sells to another business in a year? Are they grandfathered in? What happens to our property values? Why wasn't a fully gated home without a school and without close homes nearby explored, like on Val Vista? We need answers from you please!

Jocelyn and Dan Condon

March 31, 2025 – Amanda Misinco Email
to Mayor, District 1 and City Manager

From: Amanda Misinco <amanda.misinco@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 12:16 PM

To: Mayor <mayor@mesaaz.gov>; District 1 <district1@mesaaz.gov>; CityManager <COMmanager@mesaaz.gov>

Subject: URGENT Concern Regarding Legacy Recovery - 2338 E Minton St, Mesa AZ 85213

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Dear Mayor Freeman and Councilmember Adams,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident of the Hermosa Vista Neighborhood regarding the recent approval of a substance abuse and rehabilitation center located within our residential community. Specifically, this facility is adjacent to Hermosa Vista Elementary School, with a shared wall directly behind the school's security barrier. In addition, its location on East Minton Street, is highly trafficked by elementary students during school drop-off and pick-up during the week. As a parent of a child attending this school, I find this placement highly concerning for the safety and well-being of our children and their educators.

While I understand the need for rehabilitation services in our community, I strongly believe that the proximity of such a facility to an elementary school poses significant risks. The potential for loitering, increased crime, exposure to individuals struggling with addiction, and possible security breaches raises legitimate safety concerns for young students and school staff. Additionally, this placement may cause distress among parents and disrupt the educational environment, affecting students' learning experiences.

I attended the public meeting held by Legacy Recovery on Friday alongside nearly 300 of my neighbors. Unfortunately, during this meeting, representatives from Legacy Recovery skirted around and avoided answering questions directly related to the safety and security of their facility. This lack of transparency only deepens our concerns and raises further doubts about the facility's ability to maintain a safe environment for the school and surrounding residential community.

Furthermore, the attorney representing Legacy Recovery explicitly stated that they applied for the Family Community Residence permit to circumvent the additional permit and licensing requirements involved in seeking Special Use Permit approval. Although she stated that Legacy Recovery does not limit the length of stay of their patients, they acknowledged that their average treatment time is 30 days, which is also listed on their website. This average

practice of 30-day treatment clearly reflects a transitional community residence with short-term stays rather than a true Family Community Residence.

Additionally, Legacy Recovery's CEO, medical director, and attorney displayed zero regard for the residents of this community, including our most vulnerable—OUR CHILDREN. They openly admitted that there is no guarantee of school security. Their dismissive attitude and unwillingness to engage in an honest discussion about the real risks this facility poses further illustrate their disregard for the safety and well-being of our neighborhood.

I understand that this situation is currently under investigation and that copies of the application have been requested for review to ensure accuracy. However, I want to bring to your attention that this morning, multiple cars were parked on-site with uniformed staff seemingly prepared to conduct business operations. Given the ongoing investigation, is there a way to delay the operations of this facility until the investigation is complete?

I appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Misinco

2206 N 24th St
Mesa, AZ 85213
714-793-7464

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Amanda Misinco, O.D.

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