

Public Comment regarding BOA25-00384

From: [Amanda Misinco](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: 7/29 Board of Adjustment Meeting - Legacy Recovery - 2338 E. Minton
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:50:55 AM

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Dear Ms. Merrill,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident of the Hermosa Vista Neighborhood, a neighbor to **Legacy Recovery Center**, a substance abuse and rehabilitation center located within our residential community. I am *opposed* to their appeal, as it is obvious that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**. Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**.

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, on March 28th, held by Legacy Recovery 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 routine 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 appreciate your attention to this critical matter, and am strongly requesting you to hold Legacy Recovery accountable and require them to apply for the appropriate **Special Use Permit**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Misinco

[REDACTED]

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Amanda Misinco, O.D.

[REDACTED]

From: [Melissa Alonzo](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: 2338 E. Minton is a short-term stay Transitional Community Residence
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 4:50:43 PM

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Hi, my name is Melissa Alonzo. I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am **opposed** to their appeal.

It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**.

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

The owners themselves **described the residence as a “short-term stay facility.”**

This directly contradicts their current claim of being a long-term stay (usually 12+ months) Family Community Residence and is a **critical point** for the board to consider.

Thank you,
Parent and neighbor
Melissa Alonzo

From: [Norman Flake](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: 2338 E. Minton
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 5:49:31 AM

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Hi

My name is Norman Flake. My family and I are neighbors to a house that is being used to house people in recovery from many addictions. I can't believe that the city approved any permit for this property which backs up to Hermosa Vista Elementary School. It is UNCONSCIONABLE that any recovery home would be located next to an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Only one small fence separates small children playing in the school playground from persons having serious problems in their lives.

I attended the meeting held at the home and it became apparent that the facility was being used as a short term stay for troubled individuals having a wide variety of addictions. This is not what a permit was granted for. Having such a facility next to a school is just wrong. Who would put innocent children in such peril? At the meeting, they admitted that many of the "guards" that make sure residents confirm to the rules were themselves addicts in recovery. The fox indeed is living in the henhouse and the situation is ripe for problems. We expect city workers and elected officials to keep our neighborhoods safe. This is not a safe situation.

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

Kind Regards
Norman Flake

From: [Lindsey Hardison](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Deny appeal for legacy
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 4:42:39 PM

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I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am **opposed** to their appeal.
It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**.
Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

Thank you,

Lindsey Hardison

From: [Lil Eskey](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Deny Appeal of Legacy
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 4:40:48 PM

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**Hi, my name is Lil Eskey. I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am opposed to their appeal.
It is very clear to me that they operate as a short-term stay facility.
Please deny their appeal and require them to apply for a Special Use Permit, as they should have done in the first place.**

Thank you.

From: [Mom's spam email](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: I am FOR the legacy recovery center
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 4:03:20 AM

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Hi, my name is Lindsey. I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am **NOT opposed** to their appeal.

It is very clear to me that the neighborhood is just full of snobby, upper middle class people who think they're too good to have something like this in their neighborhood. They seem to think it will attract "low life people" and "drug addicts" when in reality, facilities such as this one help to keep neighborhoods safer. They're also ignoring the fact that when a facility like this one is put in an area such as this one, the people that could benefit the most from it are the upright soccer moms who are addicted to medication like opioids and benzodiazepines, and/or alcohol.

Please **APPROVE their appeal** and do not require them to apply for a special use permit. Thank you.

From: [Jeff Kerr](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Center - HV Neighborhood
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 1:48:21 PM

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Hi Jennifer – my name is Jeff Kerr and I live across the street from Hermosa Vista Elementary.

I have current evidence that the Legacy Recovery Center in my neighborhood is short-term in nature and should require a special use permit to operate. My colleague's acquaintance was just a patient at the center and was admitted for ~30 days. This completely contradicts Legacy's claim that they are a long-term family community residence.

There was also clear evidence of the short-term nature of their programs on their website before the neighborhood caught wind of what was happening. Furthermore, at the neighborhood meeting a few months ago there were multiple instances when the owners clearly implied the average stay is not more than a few months.

Please deny their appeal and require them to apply for a special use permit. This is what should have happened from the very beginning and I deeply appreciate your help in upholding this.

Thank you,
Jeff

From: [David Lake](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center - 2338 E. Minton
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 5:30:10 PM

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Good evening,

I am a Mesa resident whose children have attended, and currently attend, Hermosa Vista Elementary. I will be unable to attend the Board of Adjustment meeting on July 29, so I submit this email in an attempt to make my voice heard. Please deny Legacy Recovery Center's appeal and require that they apply for a SUP.

As a concerned parent and informed voter, I attended the large neighborhood meeting that took place in the spring at the home located at 2338 E. Minton, which was "organized" by Legacy Recovery Center. Beyond the various concerns associated with such a facility being located immediately adjacent to an elementary school, I was especially concerned that the property is literally a stone's throw from the door to my son's classroom. The classroom door is easily accessible within mere seconds to anyone that chooses to jump the fence.

While attending the neighborhood "meeting" I heard one of the individuals representing Legacy Recovery Center (a man, although I do not recall his name) state that their patients/residents typically stay at their facilities short-term, no more than 60 days. This stood out to me because, after the meeting, I learned that such a short-term facility has different permitting requirements than what they applied for.

Regardless of the concerns associated with having a recovery center immediately adjacent to an elementary school, which concerns are valid in and of themselves, I ask that you consider Legacy Recovery Center as a short-term facility and require that they apply for the appropriate permits.

Thanks,

David Lake

From: [CATHIE ARCHER](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy recovery center
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:01:37 AM

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Sent from my iPhone Hi, my name is Cathie Archer, I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am **opposed** to their appeal.

It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**.the owners stated that when speaking to us about this facility.at the last get together at the house site .

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

From: [Brad Arnett](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Cc: [Kim Arnett](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 5:20:57 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Jennifer,

My wife and I live across the street from the facility at 2355 E Minton St. Our home is one of the most impacted homes by this new business in our neighborhood. **We are writing to voice our complete opposition to this obvious short-term residential care facility.** We have security cameras on our home at various locations 24 hours a day as a precaution. Due to the proximity of our home to this facility, we can virtually see all the activity that occurs in the immediate area. We know when people are admitted to the home, we can gather when they are discharged. We can see them as they leave the home to go on a walk, by themselves. We saw when the emergency vehicles arrived as they responded to emergencies that have taken place over the last few months. The frequency of it all is alarming.

We are happy to provide all the data necessary to support the denial of their appeal. This facility knowingly tried to deceive the city of Mesa and its zoning department by manipulating its application, web content, stated mission, etc., to get a permit.

Ironically, we had a niece, who is now six years sober, staying with us the day the neighborhood meeting was held. This niece has been through several facilities identical to this over her lifetime. She was a valuable resource in helping us understand the need for good and proper care for addicted or otherwise afflicted people. She explained how these short-term facilities are not about care; they are about insurance money and profit. She explained in detail the realities of the short-term nature of these facilities.

Please let us know if we can provide further understanding or evidence to prove the facts of this facility is, by very definition, a short-term facility. Thank you for your considerations. We trust the Board of Adjustment will prudently agree with the city's decision to withdraw its initial permit from this applicant.

Brad and Kim Arnett



From: [Cindy Flake](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 5:32:24 PM

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Hi, my name is Cindy Flake. I have lived in the neighborhood to Legacy Recovery Center for over 25 years, and I am **opposed** to their appeal.

It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**.

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

They had a meeting before they had people even living there and I am sure at least 100 people showed up to ask questions of the head of this place who also had a lawyer and a doctor attend. The head of this place couldn't give straight answers to us and some of the things he said were lies and he could hardly keep his story straight from what he said when the news did an interview with him. He clearly stated that this was a short term stay facility. We do not want this in the neighborhood and I can't see why they would get approval for this anyway, when it has an elementary school directly behind it. They tried to tell us that if anyone goes out of the house they have a staff member that will follow them. That is hard to believe! This should never be allowed to be that close to a school. There is already a house on Hermosa Vista that has troubled men in it and they roam the neighborhood often. We don't need this and especially directly behind a school, it just shocks me that it has gone in there.

Please do not allow this!

Thank you,
Cindy Flake



From: [Mason Bradshaw](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 5:04:26 PM

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Hi Ms. Merrill,

My family and I are getting ready to build a house on a lot in Menlo Circle near Hermosa Vista and Gilbert Rd. It's very close to a home recently purchased by Legacy Recovery Center which operates as a short-term recovery facility (they claim it is a long-term center but it is very clearly not). I would like to add my voice to the other neighbors near Hermosa Vista Elementary School. I am strongly opposed to Legacy's appeal. It is obvious they operate as a short-term stay facility which is demonstrated by their advertising material as well as statements made by their owners and directors at the neighborhood meeting held several months ago. I am asking you to deny Legacy's appeal and require them to apply for a special use permit which they should have done initially. Your assistance here is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mason Bradshaw

From: [lois scale](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Cc: [lois scale](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 8:13:31 AM

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Good morning,

Hi, my name is Lois Scale. I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am **opposed** to their appeal.

I attended the neighborhood meeting and heard them refer to it as **short-term**.

It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**.

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

It should always be about protecting the children. This should not be right next to a school.

Sincerely

Lois Scale

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Richard Phelps](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Opposition to Legacy Recovery Center Appeal
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 5:43:10 PM

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Hello, we are Richard and Carrie Phelps. Our home at [REDACTED], is about 100 yards east of the Legacy Recovery Center at 2338 E Minton St.

We are OPPOSED to Legacy Recovery's appeal of the decision of the City of Mesa's Zoning Administrator that their Minton facility is a short-term stay Transitional Community Residence, not a long-term stay Family Community Residence. Indeed, their appeal (and their original permit application) is in direct contradiction to their representative's public statements about the nature of the facility. We understand that during a tour of the facility, the owners of Legacy Recovery repeatedly referred to the treatment provided there as "short term" of typically 30-60 days. Additionally, during the public meeting held in the driveway of the residence on March 28th, which we attended, the owners again referred to the treatment provided at the facility as "short term." It is quite disingenuous for them to now assert otherwise, and indeed it was disingenuous for them to have asserted that the facility was a long-term stay Family Community Residence when they applied for their existing permit, rather than apply for a Special Use Permit at the outset.

The facts clearly support the city's Zoning Administrator decision, and we hope you will agree.

Thank you for considering our input.

Richard A & Carrie Phelps
[REDACTED]

From: [Aaron hou](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Please Deny Legacy Recovery Center"s Appeal(2338 E. Minton Mesa AZ)
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 4:53:30 PM

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Hi,

My name is Aaron Hou. I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and I am **opposed** to their appeal.

It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**.

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

Best Regards

Aaron Hou

From: [Tami Johnston](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: recovery center
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:19:13 AM

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Good Morning,

My name is Tami Johnston, and I wanted to write this email to you regarding the Legacy recovery center home in the Hermosa Vista neighborhood.

This home's back fence is Hermosa Vista Elementary School. When we met with the owners of the center, they did not make us feel comfortable at all with how the home would operate and protect the children. There were a lot of beating around the bush comments and I felt some dishonesty as to how long residents would be staying and what there outside monitoring would be.

I am opposed to their appeal. Please deny their appeal and require them to apply for a Special Use Permit.

Thank you for your time.

Tami Johnston



From: [charlotte schenck](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center, Minton Street, Mesa
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 11:03:50 AM

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Jennifer,

I am a home owner on Hermosa Vista Drive, Mesa. My husband and I have lived at this home for almost 20 years. Recently we have been notified about a home in our nearby neighborhood that is being used for a substance abuse and mental health treatment center. This particular home, in which the treatment center backs to our Hermosa Vista Elementary School.

I am sure you are aware of all of this, but are you concerned about the type of facility this is? In my opinion, as well as other concerned area homeowners, this facility and the type of service offered should not be near a school or in a residential area.

Really, was there no other place in this city of Mesa that would better suit this type of treatment center? I certainly agree that there is a need for this type of center and am not opposed to one, but not near a school or primarily residential area.

Please reconsider the choice of this type of treatment center in this area.

Thank you,
Charlotte Schenck

From: [lindsay porter](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center Hearing
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 10:38:21 PM

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Hi Jennifer,

My name is Lindsay Rhead. I live a couple streets away from the Recovery Center. My husband and I are opposed to their appeal. We attended the neighborhood gathering a few months ago. The director and others representing the house did mention short-term stays for residents when asked by neighbors. I remember hearing Richard say the typical stay was 6-8 weeks.

We will try our best to attend the upcoming hearing on July 29 but it is at the exact same time as Hermosa Vista Elementary School's "meet the teacher". I am sure other families in our neighborhood will have the same conflict. Was this the only day and time available for the hearing? It almost seems like Legacy intentionally chose that time knowing much of the neighborhood would have a hard time attending the hearing. Is there any chance it could be moved to another date?

Thanks,
Lindsay

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jocelyn Condon](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center at 2338 E. Minton St.
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 12:27:24 PM

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Dear Ms. Merrill,

We live in a close knit neighborhood with families who have been here for a long time. We are appalled that a substance abuse clinic can freely open next to an elementary school with no problems from the city! We attended the public meeting in the driveway on a school day afternoon with 200 other neighbors to listen to their story. They did not explain why they chose a location sharing a fence with an elementary school. They did say it was a short term residence and the patients would be staying 30-60 days on average. We all know the family who used to live there and they did not know it was bought with the intention of putting our young children at risk. We need families in our neighborhoods, not businesses that don't care.

Please deny Legacy Recovery their appeal and require them to get a Special Use Permit.

Thank you,
Jocelyn and Dan Condon

From: [Tyson Haws](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 10:09:54 AM

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Hello Jennifer,

My name is Tyson Haws. I live in the Groves of Hermosa Vista neighborhood and am a neighbor to the Legacy Recovery Center. I am writing you to voice my opposition to their appeal. I attended their community meeting earlier this year where they clearly stated that most of their residents stay 30-60 days. I do not believe that they have intentions to truly be a Family Community Residence because that contradicts what they stated to all of the neighbors in the beginning. Please deny their appeal and require them to apply for a Special Use Permit, as they should have done in the first place.

Thank you,

Tyson Haws



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 7:43:55 AM

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Hi,

I live a few houses away from the Legacy Recovery Center, and I'm opposed to their appeal.

The center operates as a short-term stay facility with just a stucco wall separating it from Hermosa Vista Elementary School. During the center's meeting with the neighborhood on March 28, 2025, the director, his associate and his attorney were very vague about the length of the stays. The director said people could stay as long as they wanted; however, he admitted they usually didn't stay very long. When pressed about the minimum stay, he reluctantly said the people they treat could leave whenever they wanted, even after a few days. He also said people regularly rotated in and out of the facility.

As such, I ask you to please deny their appeal and require them to apply for a Special Use Permit. They should be monitored as a short-term stay facility because the owner/director described it that way during our neighborhood meeting when he admitted people usually didn't stay very long. I believe requiring them to apply for a Special Use Permit is especially important since they are located next door to an elementary school and since they treat people with addictions (including sexual addictions), PTSD and schizophrenia.

Teresa Bitler

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Mireya Acosta](#)
To: [Jennifer Merrill](#)
Subject: Legacy Recovery Center
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 7:32:00 PM

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Hello Jennifer,

My name is Mireya Acosta. I am a neighbor to Legacy Recovery Center, and my child attends Hermosa Vista elementary.

It is very clear to me that they operate as a **short-term stay facility**. I am opposed to their appeal.

Please **deny their appeal** and require them to apply for a **Special Use Permit**, as they should have done in the first place.

Thank you.