

## Exceptional Care Within Your Reach

2001 Dalton Ave

Deltona, FL 32725

407-520-1792

April 20, 2021

Dear Zoning Department,

On March 16, 2020 Exceptional Care Within Your Reach was granted conditional use of the property located at 2001 Dalton Ave. to be used as an APD (Agency for Persons with Disabilities) group home to house six residents. After further review of our original zoning documents and the opening of our group home, we now wish to amend certain criteria of our zoning paperwork so that we may accommodate individuals with varying needs.

In resolution 2020-01, under section one number four we were granted permission through the resolution to only accept and serve minimal and moderate residents under the provisions of APD guidelines. We come forth at this time to argue that these restrictions concerning our choices for residents is not suitable to the needs of prospective residents to our home. We would like to argue that the resolution should be amended to include a broader class of residents, or in fact it would be ideal if the resolution would not contain classification restrictions at all. We will still be serving six residents and staff will be present care for them twenty-four hours a day.

The residents we serve vary in their needs. They are just as any human being and require assistance in different areas with different tasks. For example, someone with a minimal classification may be new to the program, have no past history, and therefore only given the minimal classification as a starting point. This individual once in the home may exhibit that they require more assistance and care than originally anticipated. They could possibly require more prompting and assistance with their personal hygiene and keeping their home and living environment clean and tidy. This additional assistance will be provided and this individual will now be eligible for a moderate designation. The designation in no way means that this resident has more behaviors or is any less deserving of the space in the house. This type of issue may also arise with an individual who comes into the home with a moderate designation. When the resident's needs change, then their classification changes. Once again, the designations used by APD are simply to be sure that the group home receives the funding it requires to care for the specific individual.

We understand that majority of individuals have an idea in their minds about what a group home is and what it does. They also have the same thoughts about its residents and their appearance and behaviors. As a group home provider, we understand these ideas and are striving to better educate the public. Our

residents are members of the neighborhoods in which they live. The group home property is taken care of as it would be if a single family lived there. Our residents in fact make a family of their own. The only difference between your family and theirs is that they have assistance by staff to allow them to live as independently as possible.

The only difference between APD designations of minimal, moderate, and extensive 1 are often not that much at all. A designation in a higher class does not assure that the resident has any more behaviors than that of a lower classification. A higher designation may be given to someone that has more physical impairments, a more complicated medication regimen, requirement of more assistance with their personal hygiene, or simply due to their lack of ability to communicate properly. Often times an individual may change designation based on their age and progression of their disability. When Exceptional Care Within Your Reach welcomes a resident into one of its group homes it is with the anticipation that this resident has found a forever home. It would be devastating to the resident if they were forced to leave their home because of a change in their needs or APD designation.

Once again, we are asking you at this time for the opportunity to amend our current conditional use application so that we may serve a broader range of individuals. We would request that our amended resolution not contain any APD designation what so ever, but if the zoning department feels it necessary then we would request to serve APD minimal, moderate, and extensive 1 residents. Thank you once again for your time and consideration to this matter.

Respectfully,

*Pamela Wright*

Pamela Wright

Owner/Operator

Exceptional Care Within Your Reach