



PIONEER
HUMAN SERVICES
A CHANGE FOR CHANGE

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July 16, 2013

Mr. Dave Yadon
City of Coeur d'Alene Planning Department
710 E. Mullan Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

**RE: Pioneer Human Services
Request for Administrative Zoning Interpretation**

Dear Mr. Yadon:

Pioneer Human Services is interested in siting a Residential Reentry Facility in the City of Coeur d'Alene pursuant to a contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Before applying for a special use permit, Pioneer would like to confirm that this type of facility fits within the definition of a "Criminal Transitional Facility" under the City's zoning code. Pioneer is working to identify an appropriately zoned site and to complete substantial additional due diligence. It is therefore important to determine early in the process that our facility, assuming compliance with all lawful conditions and requirements, would preliminarily qualify for any necessary land use permit.

By way of background, Pioneer is a leading provider of counseling, transitional and substance treatment services in the Northwest for over fifty years. Pioneer's Residential Reentry Facility houses and develops skills for individuals who are completing the remaining twelve months of a sentence for a federal crime. The residents will be not be new residents to North Idaho, but rather will have designated their place of release as the North Idaho region based upon their prior residency or connectedness to the region. They are still under the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons as they are completing the remainder of their sentence. The facility will provide between 21 and 43 beds with lockdown hours, meals, bathing facilities, exercise rooms, counseling facilities and administrative offices.

The facility will also provide for an on-site training facility to develop employment-readiness and manufacturing skills for its residents. These skills are designed to reduce the potential for re-offending and provide marketable workforce skills. If permitted, Pioneer expects that its facility will introduce millions of dollars into the local economy through both the development of the facility, job creation and mandated subcontracting with local small businesses. In addition, the agreement with the Federal Bureau of Prisons obligates Pioneer to use local contractors and minority owned businesses.

Pioneer understands that the City's zoning code equates this type of use with that of a "Criminal Transitional Facility." Section 17.03.040(F) of the City code defines a "Criminal Transitional Facility" as:

·Providing transitional living accommodations for three (3) or more residents who are on probation or parole for a felony. The maximum number and type of offenders, based on the offenses committed, the extent of supervision required, and the length of allowable transition period shall be set by special use permit.

Pioneer further interprets the Coeur d'Alene City Code to permit the siting of Criminal Transitional Facilities only in the C-17 and C-17L zones under a special use permit, but currently does not permit such a use within either the Manufacturing or Light Manufacturing zones. If this interpretation is incorrect, please advise. Further, we would want to know whether an attached occupational and manufacturing academy would require additional permitting beyond that of a special use permit of the type referenced above.

The definition of "Criminal Transitional Facility cited above utilizes the term "parole." Since 1984, the Federal Bureau of Prisons no longer provides for traditional "parole" for federal crimes. Before the use of "parole" was abolished, it was considered to be a conditional release from incarceration prior to the termination of a sentence. In lieu of "parole," the Federal Bureau of Provisions provides for the use of a Residential Reentry Facility enabling inmates to fill out the remainder of their unexpired sentence, provided a resident satisfies the prerequisites of the program. Such pre-release residents reside at the facility, receive training at the facility and are employed in the community. The two definitions appear to be functionally equivalent by providing for the same type of conditional release from incarceration to persons still under sentence from a federal crime.

Pioneer kindly asks that the City confirm its understanding that this type of facility would fall within the definition of "Criminal Transitional Facility," therefore enabling it to apply for a special use permit from the City.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Woolworth
Vice President, Adult and Juvenile Reentry