



School District 271

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
311 North 10th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

OFFICE (208) 664-8241
FAX (208) 676-1011
www.cdaschools.org

Q1

August 13, 2013

Via Personal Delivery

City of Coeur d'Alene Planning Commission
710 E. Mullan Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Re: Port of Hope Centers, Inc.'s Request for Special Use Permit 3-13.

Dear Commissioners:

At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Coeur d'Alene School District recently met with Port of Hope representatives regarding their application for a special use permit. The meeting provided a meaningful opportunity for the District to learn about the Center's operations and facilities, as well as their safety protocols for residents. While the District supports Port of Hope's mission, it simply cannot support this application. There are simply insufficient precautions that the Center can offer to adequately safeguard the District's children, particularly the children of Fernan Elementary.

In particular, Port of Hope is unable to track *all* of its residents on GPS tracking devices. The Center informed the District that Port of Hope could not require GPS devices on certain classifications of offenders without a Court order. The category of offenders that cannot be tracked by GPS without a court order can include sexual offenders. This creates obvious uncertainty for the District. Additionally, the Center cannot eliminate the unsupervised travels of the residents. Although that part of the Port of Hope program that encourages residents to actively seek and gain employment is of value, the residents are unsupervised in these outings and have the potential to deviate from their preapproved schedule.

Ultimately, not every offender will successfully complete the Port of Hope program. We are unbelievably grateful that there has never been an incident, but it only takes one, and we simply cannot afford to take that risk. The District cannot support Port of Hope's application for a special use permit and asks the Planning Commission to similarly deny this application because of its incompatibility with the existing uses on adjoining properties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Handelman
District Superintendent