

THANH DANG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ALISON BANKS, SENIOR PLANNER
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VA GOVERNMENT

**RE: SPECIAL USE PERMIT, STR
165 NEW YORK AVENUE, HARRISONBURG
ZONED R-2
WES SMALLWOOD T/A ORANGE SKY LLC**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS MEMO IS INTENDED TO SUPPORT APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE STR SPECIAL USE PERMIT AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

THE PROPERTY OWNER, REGISTERED AS ORANGE SKY LLC, BEING WESLEY W. SMALLWOOD/DIONNE JONES. UPON VISUAL CONTACT AND FIRST IMPRESSION WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL (WES SMALLWOOD), HE APPEARS TO BE AN EXTREMELY HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL. WES HAS EXTENSIVE MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHICH I WILL EXPLAIN AND THIS WILL SUPPORT HIS POSITION IN OBTAINING APPROVAL OF THIS PROPERTY AS A STR SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

WES WAS EMPLOYED WITH MERCK IN ELKTON, VA WITH A PROMISING CAREER. HE WAS SUDDENLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY STRICKEN WITH VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION (A LIFE-THREATENING CONDITION), WHICH HE MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED. HE IS IMPLANTED WITH A DEFIBRILLATOR/PACEMAKER, AND IS UNDER PHYSICIAN CARE. HE HAS BEEN STRICKEN ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS AND THEREFORE, HE HAS BEEN PLACED ON DISABILITY AND TO THIS DAY SUFFERS FROM A SEVERE CASE OF PTSD. (HE IS NOT ONE TO TALK ABOUT THIS AND/OR MAKE IT KNOWN TO WHOMEVER.)

WES IS A SINGLE PARENT OF A 17 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER WHO LIVES WITH HIM FULL TIME. IT IS HIS DESIRE TO PROVIDE FOR HER CURRENT NEEDS, AND HER FUTURE AS WELL AS HIS OWN LIFE AND HIS FIANCÉE DIONNE JONES.

THEREFORE, HE FOUND THIS PROPERTY, WHICH WAS VERY BLIGHTED AND AN EYE SORE AND NUISANCE, TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

WITH HIS HEALTH ISSUES HE FELT HE NEEDED TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF INCOME. HE PURCHASED 165 NEW YORK AVENUE AND INVESTED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO MAKE THIS PROPERTY BOTH AN ASSET TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS WELL AS AN INCOME SOURCE. OBVIOUSLY, ALL OF THIS WAS DONE WITH NO GUARANTEE OF PROFITABLE RESULT.

WES IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL THAT IS "FLIPPING PROPERTY" SIMPLY FOR MAKING A FEW DOLLARS. RATHER, HIS ATTEMPT IS TO PROVIDE SOME STEADY INCOME FOR HIMSELF, HIS DAUGHTER AND HIS FIANCÉE DIONNE. HIS DESIRE IS TO CONTINUE TO BE A PROPERTY OWNER IN THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG, AND HE WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED HIM IN INVESTING WITHIN THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG.

I FELT THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE SHARED WITH THOSE INVOLVED WITH GRANTING THESE PERMITS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE LANDOWNER AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

JUST AN FYI, I HAVE WATCHED DILIGENTLY THIS WEEK THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING (7-9), THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING (7-10) AND FOLLOWED THE DNR REPORTING. I FEEL THIS IS SOMEWHAT OF UNCHARTED TERRITORY FOR BOTH THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL. THEREFORE, I FELT A NEED TO WRITE IN SUPPORT OF THIS SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

JUST TO CLARIFY, I AM WES SMALLWOOD'S AUNT.

THANK YOU.

**RHONDA H. LENTZ
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