



Florida House of Representatives Representative Bruce Antone, District 46

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March 23, 2015

Orange County Mayor, Teresa Jacobs
201 S. Rosalind Avenue
5th Floor
Orlando, Florida 32801

Handwritten notes: "TJ", "GJ", "GRJW", "KT", "up" and a stamp: "MAR 24 2015" and "OFFICE".

Dear Mayor Jacobs,

I'm writing this letter to express my concerns regarding the Special Exception and Variance request of the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's property, which is located at 3250 Old Winter Garden Road, Orlando, Florida. The comments in this letter are based on the concerns expressed to me by the residents, Pastors, congregants and business owners within a one mile radius of the proposed location for the new Orlando Union Rescue Mission Residential Care Facility.

Listed below are a multitude of reasons why numerous individuals are opposed to the zoning change and proposed construction of a 150 bed residential care facility for the homeless at the 3250 Old Winter Garden, Orlando, Florida address.

1. The proposed location for the Orlando Union Rescue Mission's new shelter will impact the surrounding neighborhoods in a negative and adverse manner. For example: The number of individuals walking the nearby streets will increase, panhandling will increase, the level of crime will increase and residents living nearby will feel less safe. In addition, nearby homeowners believe their property values will decrease should the facility be built at the proposed location.
2. The proposed location for the new homeless shelter will be within 500-700 feet of Liquor Masters, a store that sells wine, beer and hard alcohol.
3. There are at least four churches, four day care facilities and several neighborhoods located within a half mile radius of the proposed new homeless facility. Those neighborhoods include Haralson Estates, North Lake Mann, and Demeter Homes. Demetree Homes is located within one half mile of the newly proposed facility. Many of its residents are elderly and retired homeowners living in a quiet and decades long established neighborhood.
4. The newly proposed facility will be located within a one mile radius of communities, already in distress and currently suffering from the effects of crime, homelessness, low property values and a large number of absentee landlords. The addition of the newly proposed homeless shelter will accelerate the decline of an already declining community.

Committees: Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee - *Democratic Ranking Member*
Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee
Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee
Education Committee
K-12 Subcommittee



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5. **The newly proposed facility will add another Social Service Agency to a community that already has problems with transients. The nearby Greyhound Bus station, an abandoned gas station adjacent to the Greyhound Bus Station, and the surrounding wooded areas bring a large number of transients into the neighboring communities. In addition, the nearby Maxwell Terrance Apartments is a converted hotel that provides temporary shelter to homeless families. More importantly, Maxwell Terrace currently experiences crime issues on a daily basis. The addition of the Orlando Union Rescue Mission Homeless Shelter will increase the transient population in the nearby communities, which already have more than their share of transients and associated problems.**

In summary, I am expressing my personal concerns and the concerns of the nearby residents, homeowners, business owners, Pastors and church-goers with regards to the zoning change request and proposed construction of a 150 bed residential care facility for the homeless at 3250 Old Winter Garden Road Orlando, Florida. Finally, the location of the newly proposed residential care facility for the homeless will increase the number of individuals roaming the streets. Panhandling will increase; the nearby churches will experience additional problems with transients using their properties for an outdoor restroom facility. The two day care centers owned by the nearby churches will incur the cost of having to increase security and number of employees to ensure the safety of the children that occupy their daycare facilities.

Please consider these comments as you prepare for the Commission meeting and vote to deny the request for the zoning change. There is a tremendous amount of opposition to this zoning request and the proposed homeless facility. I respectfully ask that you adhere to the recommendation of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. As stated in the final position of the BZA in declining the zoning change request, the proposed land use would **“exacerbate”** service issues already being experienced and act as a **“detrimental intrusion into the surrounding area.”**

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Antone".

State Representative Bruce Antone
District 46

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