

West Allis Mayor Dan Devine and Common Council:
Amendment Proposal to the West Allis City Zoning Ordinances
Feeding His Flock, Inc.

Feeding His Flock, Inc. is at present, requesting an amendment to the city zoning ordinances be issued in order to accommodate organization such as ours. In the current zoning ordinances, there is no classification for a Social service agency and /or non-profit organizations. We would like to propose the amendment of Social Services/non-profit organizations, with a sub-classification of (a) food pantry, (b) community outreach, and (c) community services. These sub-classifications will allow our organization to peacefully exist with the West Allis city limits, but will also allow for the consideration of other organizations in the future. We see that it takes many groups and organizations to effectively impact a community, and our organization is truly community driven. We would like to see the people of West Allis have a great of chance as possible at ultimate success. Feeding His Flock, Inc., a not for profit organization providing social service located and operating out of the city of West Allis, WI would like to formally propose an amendment to the City of West Allis zoning ordinances. We establish that we meet the city's recorded criteria for such a change based on the following points:

1. We offer a range of services through a network of partners. We will help any man, woman and child in crisis with the following:
 1. Emergency food relief,
 2. Homeless Outreach
 3. Benefits Counseling
 4. Employment Counseling, Training and Placement
 5. Substance abuse treatment program referrals
 6. Mental health treatment program referrals
2. Families who are in a short term crisis can receive several days worth of food. Seniors and disabled residents receive deliveries that fill a crucial gap for those who need immediate help but cannot access regular food banks or nutrition programs. We also deliver a supply of groceries to families that are formerly homeless and moving in to new homes to get them started.
3. Many homeless/low income families placed in new homes through federal programs are given keys and nothing else. Because we accept donations of repurposed furniture, kitchen items, linens, household items, toiletries, and appliances, we are able to supply these items to assist individuals on the road back to independence.
4. We do outreach to find where homeless gather, such as the park or Public Library. We help them obtain assistance with housing, medical care, clothing, hygiene items, food and other necessities. We put them in contact with the partner programs we work with such as the Outreach Community Center and Community Advocates.

The proposed change in ordinance would in no way impact the environment, as no structural or external changes will be made, therefore the surrounding environment will be left in the same state it is currently. The existing infrastructure will not be altered in any way, and in its current state, will perfectly accommodate the needs of the organization and its clients. This request constitutes a continuation of the current zoning district, merely because there are no zoning ordinances in place for an organization such as ours.

The change in conditions in the area supporting such an amendment are seen in the people. There is a definite need for these services provided by Feeding His Flock, Inc. There is a growing demand as demonstrated by our weekly service numbers in families coming to the food pantry for food and homeless people requesting specific donations or meals. Our statistics have demonstrated a pattern of need within the city. This organization would fill that need as well as the needs of many others with the teaming of other organizations such as Feeding America, Hunger Task Force and Waste Cap Resource Solutions. The inability to utilize partnerships with those organizations at this temporary locations, makes the need for a permanent home all the more imperative.

Our organization is unable to occupy a permanent location presently, as the current zoning ordinances have no regulations for our type of organization. This change is consistent with established land use pattern. There are several other organizations, similar in mission and services rendered, within city limits. Examples of such organizations are Good Samaritan Food and Clothing Bank, Milwaukee Homeless Vets Initiative, and the Salvation Army.

It has been said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We believe that a community is only as strong as its weakest member. By providing services such as emergency food relief, employment referrals, and mental/substance abuse treatment program referrals; we are strengthening those in our community who are the weakest, therefore strengthening the community as a whole.

We are asking you, the Elected Officials, to remove our mission and services from the Thrift Store category and re-classify as a Social Service Agency and Non-Profit Organization with the option of a resale shop to fund the mission along with grant money and donations. Also to be include us with the other such organizations we mentioned so that we can locate and move to a C2 zoning area. We also ask that you add a classification for such organizations as ours.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

Debra Sehnert Gonzalez- President

Feeding his flock Food Pantry and Homeless outreach

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