



SESNA

South East Salem Neighborhood Association

555 Liberty St SE Salem, Oregon 97301 (503) 588-6261

March 3, 2017

To: Councilors and Mayor, City of Salem

From: South East Salem Neighborhood Association

Re: Zoning code amendment for domestic violence shelters

After listening to representatives from the Center for Hope and Safety at a recent SESNA meeting to explain proposed code amendments, I enthusiastically submit this letter of support on behalf of the SESNA Board.

We believe these shelters need as much protection from publicity as possible. These homes shelters are unique in that they need to be "low-profile" by blending in with the neighborhood, for the protection of domestic violence victims. They shouldn't be restricted to finding frontage on arterials or collector streets in Single Family Residential zones; nor should they face the publicity and exposure of securing conditional use permits, as currently exists. We asked many challenging questions - like maximum number of people served in each home and general upkeep - and learned that a shelter like this would be well-managed and blend in harmoniously (and quietly) with our neighborhood.

Victims of domestic violence are most often women and their children. They deserve to find a fresh start in a safe, protected environment. This code change would be a major step in that direction.

Sincerely,
SESNA Chair
Shannon Priem