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RICHARD V. MURPHY

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Lexington-Fayette County Planning Commission
101 East Vine Street, Seventh Floor
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: Text Amendment Request

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

Hospice of the Bluegrass, which has provided service to this community for 35 years, is considering the construction of a new facility and requests your consideration of a text amendment.

As you know, Hospice of the Bluegrass provides medical and palliative care to persons who are in the final stage of an incurable disease or condition. Hospice exists so that persons can live as fully and comfortably as possible. Dying is recognized as a normal process, and it is neither hastened nor postponed. The hospice program strives to provide the appropriate care and to provide a caring community so that patients and their families may be free to attain a degree of mental and spiritual preparation for death that is satisfactory to them.

We are requesting a text amendment to clarify the status of a hospice facility in the economic development (ED) zone. In the economic development zone, medical clinics are already permitted. However, by definition, medical clinics cannot provide overnight, in-patient care. Regional medical campuses consisting of at least fifty (50) acres are also allowed in the ED zone. However, a free standing hospice unit is not expressly allowed. We feel that hospice care should not be limited to a large medical facility. Hospice care takes a holistic approach involving patient and family, including counseling. This care can often be best provided in a more serene atmosphere away from the traffic, sirens and general hustle and bustle of a large institution. Therefore, we feel it is important to allow a hospice as a separate entity.

Thus, we are asking for three amendments to the zoning ordinance.

First, we are requesting that a hospice be defined. This new definition would be in Section 1-11 of the Zoning Ordinance and would read as follows:

HOSPICE - A facility which provides support and care for persons in the last stage of an incurable disease or condition, and to their families. Overnight, in-patient and out-patient facilities may be included, as well as offices, storage, and

an associated pharmacy. Medical care, palliative care, counseling and education may be provided.

Second, we are requesting that Section 23A-10 (b)(3), Principal Uses in the Economic Development (ED) zone be amended to read as follows (new language is underlined):

3. Medical and dental offices, clinics and laboratories, and hospices.

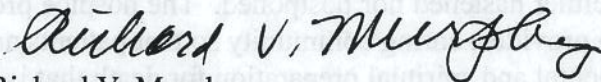
Third, parking regulations need to be added. We are requesting the same parking requirements as hospitals and rehabilitation homes. Thus, Section 23A-10(i) would be amended to add the following paragraph:

Hospices – One (1) space for every four (4) beds; plus one (1) space for each employee on the maximum working shift, with a minimum of five (5) spaces.

In the 35 years of its existence, Hospice of the Bluegrass has vastly improved the treatment and care of terminally ill people and their families. Hospice has become an essential and beloved institution. Building and running its own facility is one way in which Hospice of the Bluegrass intends to continue to improve the lives of people in central Kentucky.

Thank you for your consideration of this text amendment request.

Sincerely,



Richard V. Murphy

Attorney for Hospice of the Bluegrass

RVM/pem
LFUCG ltr 5-6-13