

FEB 22 2023

Edwards,Michelle

**From:** Karrum Nasser <karrumnasser@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 11:54 AM  
**To:** Auler,Amy; Azar, George; Bennett,Duke A; Crossen,Martha; DeBaun,Curtis; Edwards,Michelle; Elliott,Earl; Felling,Darrell; Garrison,Neil; Nation,Todd; Loudermilk,Cheryl; Boland,Tammy  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL -General Ordinance 2, 2023

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Council Members

Thank you for your service to our community. I am writing to request changes to General Ordinance 2, 2023. Being in your seat at one time I know the responsibilities that come with your role. As president of the Phoenix House of Terre Haute board of directors, there is an amendment we would like to request to the ordinance. Section 10-193 section d number 1 states "that each habitable sleeping room shall have an area not less than 90 square feet". We would like to see that number changed to 50 square feet. The number should be 50 to be consistent with Section 465 IAC 2-1.5-9 which deals with physical facilities of foster homes for children.

The recovery community understands that there is a need for some kind of restrictions, especially from out-of-town providers. We just hope that the council understands that there is a need for recovery facilities and that they work better in residential areas and not in a dorm-like atmosphere. We had our open house in November and an invitation was sent out to all the council members. Some members did make it, and we understand that everyone has a busy schedule. There is always an open invitation to see our facility at any time and to see what we are doing and what sets our program apart from the origins of this ordinance.

I have a picture in my office of our very first resident whom I will call "Jane". When she entered our facility she had been clean for two weeks. She had tried other facilities that were dorm-like facilities. She was three days away from losing rights to her 7-year-old daughter. She entered our facility. She was tested weekly. She went to weekly meetings that are mandatory in our program. She began getting supervised visits with her daughter. She continued to do the service work that our program requires. She graduated at the beginning of the month and she is reunited with her daughter without supervision. Our program works. There are others out there that do too. Please continue to remember that and follow the adage that as public servants your responsibility is to help people, but at the minimum not hurt them.

Thanks again for all that you do.

Sincerely,  
Karrum Nasser  
President Phoenix House of Terre Haute.