



202 W. Willow Ave, Suite 203, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Alton Jay Mitchell
Board President
Evelyn Sanguinetti
Executive Director

Phone: (630) 690-6500
Fax: (630) 690-6586

October 21, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, IL 60143

LETTER OF SUPPORT – HAYMARKET DUPAGE

Dear Commissioners:

I write on behalf of the HOPE Fair Housing Center in support of the pending zoning application of Haymarket DuPage in the Village of Itasca. As the oldest fair housing center in the State of Illinois, HOPE has spent more than 52 years fighting against housing discrimination and for social justice. During these 52 years, HOPE has worked to eliminate housing discrimination and segregation because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status or any other characteristic protected under state and local laws.

Haymarket Center Chicago has a long and respected history of providing treatment to individuals suffering from substance use and mental health disorders. Individuals who undergo residential treatment at Haymarket are among the those who are protected against housing discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act and Americans With Disabilities Act. Countless reports have stated that availability of treatment is essential as a means of helping individuals stop or reduce use of harmful substances, improve their health and social function and manage the risk of relapse. With the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, the need for treatment has only grown, as those suffering from drug dependency battle coping alone as Illinois practices social distancing and quarantine.

As an advocate for fair housing, HOPE urges you to uphold the civil rights of individuals handicapped by alcohol or drug addictions and to approve Haymarket's plan to provide a treatment facility in our County.

***Be sure to visit HOPE's website, www.hopefair.org
Creating greater housing opportunities and choice for all people since 1968***

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Pursuant to its mission to advance fair housing for individuals regardless of their different abilities, HOPE engages in educational efforts, in-depth investigations and informal and formal pursuit of complaints involving individual and systemic housing discrimination based on disability. HOPE's advocacy and education addressing housing discrimination based on disability includes HOPE's monitoring of several corrective action plans and consent decrees under the Fair Housing Act involving an array of housing providers and governmental entities. HOPE's efforts, resources and mission are diverted and frustrated by actions and policies that interfere with or cut off access to housing for persons with disabilities or who are regarded as disabled.

We respect the concerns voiced by residents of your Village and believe a thoughtful response can be made which will address those concerns. HOPE Fair Housing Center encourages you to work with Haymarket DuPage. We truly believe that Itasca has an opportunity now to address the needs of an important segment of our population by working with Haymarket DuPage to open its facility.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Sanguinetti
Executive Director
HOPE Fair Housing Center