

MINUTES
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE BOARD
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
City Hall, Room 310
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Heiman, Renee Keehan, Kathy De Cremer, Heidi Michel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dean Gerondale

ALSO PRESENT: Ald. Tom De Wane

The meeting was called to order by Renee Keehan.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the October 8, 2014 Minutes of the Sex Offender Residency Board meeting

Motion made by Ben Heiman to approved the October 8, 2014 Minutes, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. APPEALS

(a) Appeal of Justin R. Phillips requesting to move to 415 Vroman Street

Justin appeared in person. Renee Keehan advised Justin of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Justin appeared before the board in August and was approved to live at this address for 90 days, at which time he was to come back with employment and treatment documentation. All board members agreed they did not need to hear details of the case again.

Justin stated he has been volunteering at Manna for Life and provided a letter to the board. He has not started treatment because he is still waiting for a letter from the ATTIC. He is on the waiting list.

Randy Phillips, Justin's father, is present at the meeting. He stated that Justin's probation officer sent a letter to the ATTIC but hasn't heard back yet.

A call was placed to "Troy," Justin's probation officer. Troy confirmed a letter of referral was sent and he asked that a rush be put on it. The last email Troy received stated

Justin would receive a letter after his assessment. There is a waiting list but Troy asked that Justin be moved to the top of the list. He hopes Justin's assessment will be done within 30 days.

Heidi Michel asked Troy if Justin is required to provide him with any job search information. Troy stated he does check with Justin weekly regarding his job searches. Troy believes Justin has been volunteering at Manna For Life approximately one month.

Troy will make copies of the weekly documentation for Justin to give the board members at the next meeting. Justin will drop it off at the law department.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Justin Phillips for an additional 30 days, address specific, was made by Ben Heiman, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

Justin is to provide job search and treatment documentation at the December board meeting. He should also provide a letter from his agent regarding the status of each. Justin understands that when he sees his agent every week, his agent should provide him with this information.

(b) Appeal of Jose Juan Perez requesting to move to 3113 Finger Road

Jose appeared in person. Renee Keehan advised Jose of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Jose stated the incident happened in 2004. He was having a house party which involved drinking with minors. The victim passed out on his bed and after everyone left the party, Jose took advantage of her while she was sleeping. Jose was 18 or 19 years old at the time. The victim was 14. It did involve sexual intercourse. Jose also passed out and does not remember much about the night. He woke up thinking it was a nightmare. This was a onetime occurrence and Jose has not had contact with the victim since then. The victim spoke to the counselor at school who then reported it.

Jose would like to move to this address with his girlfriend and two children.

Jose attended treatment at Family Services from 2008 through 2011. Jose has been meeting with Harry Sydney at My Brother's Keeper since 2009 and provided the board with a letter of support from him. Jose sees Mr. Sydney every two weeks. Jose stated he's learned about life, money, family and alcoholism from going to Mr. Brother's Keeper.

Jose feels he is now very successful. He graduated from college and is moving forward. He is an industrial mechanic and wants to become an electrician. Jose also provided the board with a letter from his employer. He's been employed there five months.

Jose stated he is off probation for this offense.

David Catalano, who represents the McAuliffe Neighborhood Association, is present at the meeting to express their objection. However, after listening Jose, David, personally, commends Jose for turning his life around and wishes him luck in the future. The neighborhood association objects because he is a sex offender, but David does not believe they are aware of the specifics of the situation.

Ald. Tom De Wane is present at the meeting. He made the neighborhood aware of Jose's request. Tom agrees that unless someone is present at the meetings, they do not know or understand the different situations. They object initially out of fear.

Both Ald. De Wane and Mr. Catalano do not feel uncomfortable about this now. Ald. De Wane knows Harry Sydney well and is familiar with the program. Jose has completed 90% more than most offenders who come before the board and he is gainfully employed.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Jose Juan Perez, address specific, was made by Kathy De Cremer, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date of December 10, 2014 was confirmed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Renee Keehan, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.