

KARL F. DEAN
MAYOR



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF CODES & BUILDING SAFETY

OFFICE ADDRESS
METRO OFFICE BUILDING – 3rd FLOOR
800 SECOND AVENUE, SOUTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37210

MAILING ADDRESS
POST OFFICE BOX 196300
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219-6300
TELEPHONE (615) 862-6500
FACSIMILE (615) 862-6514
www.nashville.gov/codes

August 5, 2014

RE: Request for reasonable accommodation
136 Rains Avenue, Nashville, TN
Parcel ID 10507037100

To whom it may concern:

Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry (TPOM) has requested a reasonable accommodation pursuant to Metropolitan Code § 17.40.010 (H) and (I) to use the property located at 136 Rains Avenue as a church for the purpose of serving persons recently released from prison. This property has a history of being used for church purposes. TPOM intends to provide a church service on Sunday. During the week, TPOM intends to offer job training, job placement, counseling, mentoring, as well as faith-based 12 step classes to those struggling with addiction. TPOM asserts that serving recently released offenders is an essential and necessary component of its religious mission. See attached letter dated July 29, 2014.

The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000cc, mandates that no local government shall implement a land use regulation that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates a compelling governmental interest and that such regulation is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest.

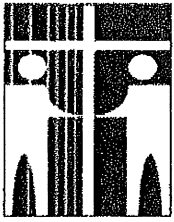
The Tennessee Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-1-407, mandates that no local government shall implement a land use regulation that impinges or curtails the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution.

Based upon the facts and law set forth above, the zoning administrator grants the request for the reasonable accommodation to use the property located at 136 Rains Avenue as a church along with the associated programs set forth above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William B. Herbert IV".

William B. Herbert IV
Metropolitan Zoning Administrator



Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry

P.O. Box 419
Madison, TN 37116

615-870-1126

615-870-1125

Fax: 615-865-6248

Email: office@tnprisonministry.org

Website: www.tnprisonministry.org

July 29, 2014

Executive Director
Thomas Snow

Bill Herbert, Zoning Administrator
Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County
Department of Codes and Building Safety
800 2nd Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37210

Assistant Director
Grant Carey

Dear Mr. Herbert,

We are seeking a permit to utilize the property at 136 Rains Avenue in Nashville for a new church that will specifically focus on serving the marginalized in this city. This property has been used since the 1920's as a church operating as the Rains Avenue Church and since the church closed in 1985, as a benevolent center. Currently, the building is empty and the property is not being utilized in any capacity.

Women's Program
Coordinator
Carole McDonald

The Hillsboro Church of Christ obtained the property in 1986 and maintained it for many years, providing benevolent assistance. Due to the retirement of a member of the church whose efforts were critical to maintaining the facility, Hillsboro Church decided to revitalize the religious services and at the same time provide as part of the ministry, services to ex-offenders returning to the community.

Ministry Assistant
Naomi Hurt

The location at 136 Rains Avenue is close to a major bus line and has a significant population of those whom we intend to serve located in the vicinity. We anticipate that weekly worship services will be offered beginning April 1, 2015. Our religious mission is derived from Luke 4:18-19:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Development
Consultant
Ron Goodman

Jesus proclaimed good news to the poor, the prisoners, the blind and the oppressed. To fulfill this mission today, an essential and necessary component is to offer job training, job placement, counseling, and mentoring for recently released offenders. We intend to partner with Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry (TPOM) to offer many of these services that will be available throughout the week. Initial plans are to offer a single church service on Sunday. We also plan to offer faith-based, 12 step classes to those struggling with addiction.

Mission Statement:

*We share the love and truth of Jesus by bringing
Freedom and hope to prisoners and their families*

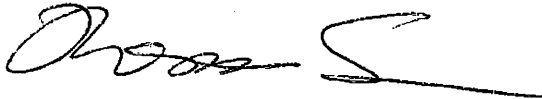
Our mission is to serve the marginalized. Unfortunately, in the Nashville area and across the state, there are limited resources for this population. Yet, this is a population that continues to grow. Currently, Americans are behind bars at a rate of one out of every ninety-nine adults. When that is expanded to include those on probation and parole, then one out of thirty-one American adults are involved in the criminal justice system. In Tennessee, there are approximately 10,000 men and women released from prison each year and about 60% are on parole. Nationally, 43.3% of those released from prison return within three years. In addition to the prisons, our local jails release on average 120 from Davidson County, twenty-five from Sumner County and fifteen from Robertson County every day. That recidivism rate is appalling and is what drives us to our mission. We are confident that we can have a significant impact on the parolees that come through our programs and greatly improve the opportunity for them to successfully integrate back into society.

In keeping with our fellowship's practices, our church will be operating under the oversight of the eldership of the Harpeth Hills church of Christ located at 1949 Old Hickory Boulevard, Brentwood, Tennessee. The Harpeth Hills Church has a long history of ministering to the marginalized and is a close partner with TPOM.

Additionally, by having the new church to partner with TPOM, we believe that we can accomplish our mission and specifically the essential and necessary component to serve released offenders. By doing this they will obtain the necessary tools to successfully assimilate into our society through a holistic effort that addresses the person's spiritual, emotional and physical needs. We believe that this ministry will offer life-changing skills to released offenders, reconciling them to God, their family and their community.

We are looking forward to a positive response from Metro Department of Codes and Building Safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Snow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Snow, Executive Director
Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry