
From: Anchor Point Food Pantry <apfp.266@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 11:16 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Public Comment for Ordinance 2022-09, Apr. 19, 2022

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We, the board of the Anchor Point Food Pantry (APFP) thank you for considering our lease application.

We need land because of the loss of our home of 9 years due to Covid giving rise to an increased demand on our pantry, and the need continues today. The 3.5 acres will allow us to create a permanent and sustainable home.

The food pantry is our primary focus, but in the long term we also need a way to endure. Our immediate strategy is outlined in the Foraker Sustainability Plan: Through grants, corporate funders, fundraising, and individual donations. Our long-term sustainability plan includes a means to create income to pay the bills. The easiest way to explain how is to give an example: The Senior Center here has 7 acres. With their seven acres of land, they are able to support themselves - through the thrift store and handicap housing - both being very beneficial to the area. This type of thinking is our intention as well, having the community in mind, and without competing with the local businesses. We have a few ideas we are discussing. This part of our plan may be years down the road - but it is a necessary and very important part of our plan and needs to be considered.

Having heard the voices of the community's concerns at the AP APC meeting, we immediately checked out the school. Having spoken with the Interim Principal, he assured us that the school has no intention of seeking the land that we have requested a lease for. He said that the School District was notified of the lease and didn't want to attempt to acquire it for themselves. The school would like more parking. I assured him that we were too far away to be of interest, but the borough has more land in that 16-acre parcel that they might like to look at. This principal did say that he had heard concerns about some of our clientele. I assured him that these are a small portion of the citizens we serve. Our plan is to have the lot opened, and no one will be allowed to loiter. We will have someone patrolling the lot for security purposes during our program activities, as we had at the church. We may have someone with good references reside on the lot (in a sanitary way).

Thank you for listening,

Melissa Martin,

APFP President