

Kozikowski, Marek

From: Charge Nurse <chargenurse184@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:22 PM
To: Kozikowski, Marek
Subject: Methadone clinic concerns (former employee & Middletown resident)

This email was sent by someone outside of the City of Middletown.

Good Morning,

My name I wish to not share as I worked for many years at the Hartford Dispensary now doing business as The root center for advanced recovery. While working there I have witnessed many people overdose in the parking lot, many accidents from intoxicated patients operating vehicles. I have witnessed many fights, usage of drugs in the parking lot and even more. This location is not a good spot to have this clinic. The root may have a good mission statement on paper however they do not live up to their mission statement. The counselors should have a ratio of 30-60 patients per counselor to be able to provide therapy for patients. Counselors at the root are well over 99 per one counselor. They also have a group model which the patient attendance rate is low. Patients cannot use methadone alone to kick a opioid addiction. They need proper counseling. The root also allows some patients to take home methadone bottles. Those methadone bottles of which have been sold in the same parking lots to which they have been given. Methadone is sold by patients at \$5 per milligram. There are patients that are on dosages as high as 150 MG. Patients are also allowed to leave with unsecured methadone on holidays and in poor weather conditions. Here in this article you can find that a child was murdered off the strength of the same methadone from the same company now doing business under a different name.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-stafford-mom-pleads-guilty-0721-story.html%3FoutputType%3Damp>

While at the root center we have also had complaint of patients bringing guns and other weapons into the clinic. However, due to Management not believing in calling the police or surgery this patient went on to then use the same gun multiple patient reported they seen to rob a local Walmart by gunpoint. I would also like to include that Sonia has grandkids who enjoy playing in the backyard of her home and salon the main switch. This is no area to house such a clinic. Imagine your kids playing with needles, heroine bags and crack pipes on the floor. Steven Zuckerman himself has vowed to never house security in any of his clinics.. You will be very disappointed if you make the decision to house this methadone clinic on Washington street in Middletown. Respectfully.



Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc.

September 11, 2020

Mr. Marek Kozikowski
City Planner
City of Middletown
245 Dekoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457

**RE: Letter of Support
Zoning Application of Root Center for Advanced Recovery for 392 Washington Street, Middletown,
Connecticut**

Dear Mr. Kozikowski,

We understand the Root Center for Advanced Recovery has filed a zoning application for the development of a methadone treatment clinic at the existing building at 392 Washington St in Middletown, Connecticut.

On behalf of Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH), located at 213 Court Street, Middletown, we would like to express our support of this application. ABH provides behavioral health management services throughout the state of Connecticut and we have worked with the Root Center and know their programs, staff and leadership very well. The Root Center for Advanced Recovery, formerly known as the Hartford Dispensary, has been treating individuals and their health needs in the state of CT since 1871, and changed their focus in 1971 to substance use and mental health services in response to the economic and medical problems associated with opioid dependence in the greater Hartford community. They are a highly respected organization and have been providing very specialized care to our communities for many years.

Root Center currently serves approximately 125-150 Middletown residents who must seek their care elsewhere within the Root Center continuum for methadone treatment. There are currently no providers in Middletown for this most highly regarded, studied, and efficacy-based treatment for opioid dependence. Oftentimes, patients must travel daily to receive this life saving medication. The number of overdose deaths in Middletown since 2015 has totaled 88, not including data for 2020. Through the first 5 months of this calendar year, compared to last calendar year, there has already been a 22% increase in overdose deaths (CT DPH), off of what was a record number of overdoses in 2019. Root Center's intent is to bring these clients "home" for their treatment, not unlike what we would want for most any other disease when appropriate resources are available and possible. The stigma is also eliminated for these patients as they are no longer faced with having to leave their community to receive this disease-based care.

Root Center is also committed to continuing to be a partner in the Middletown community. They already operate a behavioral health office at 520 Saybrook Road, are members of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce, have recently donated \$8,000 to the St. Vincent de Paul Food pantry, and have attempted to sponsor numerous events prior to the pandemic – PRIDE 2020 & Mayor's Ball, to name just two. They have strong relationships already in place with Middlesex Health, who are also outspoken supporters of the Root Center and this application, as well as the Commissioner of DMHAS, Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, and the Mayor of Middletown, Ben Florsheim.

Root Center also has proven to not only understand the importance of creating a safe space for treatment, but also a clinical environment anyone would be proud to enter. They have high standards in terms of aesthetics, material, and ambiance, not only for those that may drive by, but also for those that may decide to enter. This will be a high quality building both inside and out.

We unequivocally support this application and welcome the opportunity to have Root Center assist our neighbors in this most awful and painful opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel Moy, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Samuel Moy, Ph.D.
President and CEO,

Kozikowski, Marek

From: Devoto, Stephen
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Kozikowski, Marek
Subject: Fw: Methadone Clinic

Please include this in the record of public comments. Thank you.

Stephen H. Devoto
Chair, Middletown Planning and Zoning ('21)
860.754.4752

From: Robert M. Dodenhoff, MD <ctame@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Devoto, Stephen; Fazzino, Nicholas; O'Connell, James; Johnson, Catherine; richpp53@gmail.com; Marcus Fazzino; Atherton, Kellin; Fulton, Shanay; Pattavina, Thom
Subject: Methadone Clinic

This email was sent by someone outside of the City of Middletown.

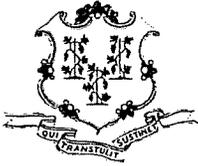
To the members of the Planning and Zoning Committee:

As a resident in the City of Middletown, the undersigned is **VEHEMENTLY** opposed to locating the Methadone Clinic on Washington Street.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Dodenhoff, MD

O: (860) 244-9110



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
 GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
 COMMISSIONER

DEPT. PLANNING & ZONING
 20 SEP - 8 PM 4: 05

September 2, 2020

Mr. Marek Kozikowski
 Planning and Zoning
 City of Middletown
 245 Dekoven Drive
 Middletown, CT 06457

Subject: Zoning Application of Root Center for Advanced Recovery for 392 Washington Street, Middletown, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Kozikowski:

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) understands that The Root Center for Advanced Recovery has filed a zoning application for the development of a methadone treatment clinic at the existing building at 392 Washington Street in Middletown, Connecticut. The Department supports this application and would welcome the local availability of methadone treatment to provide evidenced-based treatment for individuals with substance use disorders.

DMHAS looks forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with The Root Center to help individuals with opioid use disorders connect to methadone treatment and build a successful recovery plan.

Respectfully,

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
 Commissioner

(AC 860) 418-7000
 410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134
www.ct.gov/dmhas

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Kozikowski, Marek

From: Jeff D <jeffmidas@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Kozikowski, Marek
Subject: Methadone Clinic

This email was sent by someone outside of the City of Middletown.

Hi Marek,

My name is Jeff Dziegielewski and I own the Midas Auto Repair Shop at 380 Washington St.

I believe the location that was chosen for the methadone clinic on Washington St is totally unfeasible due to the amount of traffic (pulling in and out of that driveway will be dangerous due to the traffic volume) and the amount of business's near by. There is not a left turn lane in that area and this is RT. 66 after all. There will be accidents!

Sincerely, Jeff Dziegielewski

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Kozikowski, Marek

From: Brian Bousquet <bbousquet1955@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 12:19 PM
To: Kozikowski, Marek
Subject: Methadone Clinic comments to be read at meeting

This email was sent by someone outside of the City of Middletown.

Hello Marek,

My name is Brian Bousquet and I am an owner of MidTown Tire & Supply, Inc. located at 1 Jackson Street, Middletown, CT.

My property is located directly behind the proposed location for the Methadone clinic.

I would like the following comments to be read at the meeting tonight.

I oppose this location for the clinic as I believe it may decrease property values and also due to the large amount of assets located on my property that are located outside and could potentially be stolen or vandalized.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,
Brian Bousquet



August 31, 2020

Mr. Marek Kozikowski
Planning and Zoning
City of Middletown
245 Dekoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457

Subject: Zoning Application of Root Center for Advanced Recovery for 392 Washington Street, Middletown, Connecticut.

Dear Members of the Middletown Planning and Zoning Commission

The Center For Behavioral Health at Middlesex Hospital understands that the Root Center For Advanced Recovery has filed a zoning application for the development of a methadone clinic at the existing building at 392 Washington St. in Middletown, Connecticut. We fully support this location and would welcome the availability of methadone treatment for our patients that struggle with substance abuse disorders.

The Center For Behavioral Health looks forward to partnering with ROOT to help our patients with opioid disorders connect with methadone care and build a recovery plan to will promote successful reintegration into the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Shelton MD'.

Jeffrey Shelton MD
Chairman, Department of Psychiatry
Center For Behavioral Health
Middlesex Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terri DiPietro MBA, OTR/L'.

Terri DiPietro MBA, OTR/L
Administrative Director
Center For Behavioral Health
Middlesex Health

William Duda53 Butternut Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860 841-8982
bduda1@gmail.com
September 8, 2020

Marek Kozikowski
Middletown Planning & Zoning Commission
City Hall
Middletown, CT 06457

Dear Marek Kozikowski:

I am a life-long resident of Middletown and my family has been living on Butternut Street since about 1930. I am writing to express my concern about locating a methadone clinic on Washington Street, some 500 feet from my home. I am opposed to it.

Property values. Residential property values will go down with the proposed location. That is a fact.

Safety. The 35 mph posted speed limit on Washington Street is poorly enforced, as most traffic moves at 45-50 mph and more. Washington Street between High Street and West Street has a high number of vehicle related accidents and fatalities.

Quality of Life. I personally mow and clean about 350 feet of public land along Washington Street and another 900 feet along Butternut Street. I do this because it will not be maintained if I do not do it. Litter, overgrowth line-of-site- issues and noise amplified by the canyon-like wall along this street are what we contend with, and work to do as much as we can to help alleviate some of these issues.

Need. Perhaps there is a need for this clinic to be located in Middletown. The proposed location is not a good one. Perhaps an existing medical facility would be better, where clinic clients aren't loitering in a residential neighborhood. Middlesex Health is in favor of this proposal, so try using their space. What about Rushford, Community Health Center or Connecticut Valley Hospital? What about using Root Center's other location at 520 Saybrook Road? (Just how many facilities does Middletown have to accept?)

What is particularly offensive is the quoted remark by Root Center VP of Ops Amy DiMauro that the objections expressed by the citizens of Middletown "sound like pure and simple discrimination to me". How dare you!

Marek Kozikowski
September 8, 2020
Page 2

Sincerely,

William Duda

PETITION TO PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE FOR 392 WASHINGTON ST

We, the undersigned and residents of Washington Street, are concerned citizens who disagree for this zoning.

FULL NAME (PRINTED)	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	SIGNATURE
Donte Tenn	5606 Washington ST	06457	<i>[Signature]</i>
John Lalman Jr	481 Main St	06481	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dennis Jacobs	13 Afton Terr	06457	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lexie Conlin	511 Washington St.	06457	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mansa Conlin	511 Washington Street+	06457	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lori DAVIS	23 Buttelwut St	06457	<i>[Signature]</i>
Kashanda Spivey	37 Cubeta Road	06457	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jaron Low	35 Sunst Terrace	06450	<i>[Signature]</i>
David Shaw	481 main St	06481	<i>[Signature]</i>
Matthew Kimball	53 E Main St ^{Portland}	06480	<i>[Signature]</i>
Donna Kern	3 West Blv	06424	<i>[Signature]</i>

Please, sign your name and address if you are not in favour.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

September 2, 2020

Mr. Marek Kozikowski
Planning and Zoning
City of Middletown
245 Dekoven Drive
Middletown, CT 06457

DEPT. PLANNING & ZONING
20 SEP - 8 PM 4:05

Subject: Zoning Application of Root Center for Advanced Recovery for 392 Washington Street, Middletown, Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Kozikowski:

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DMHAS looks forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with The Root Center to help individuals with opioid use disorders connect to methadone treatment and build a successful recovery plan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon".

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134
www.ct.gov/dmhas

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