

Memorandum

City of Lawrence-Douglas County

Planning & Development Services

TO: David L. Corliss, City Manager

FROM: Planning Staff

CC: Scott McCullough, Planning and Development Services Director

Date: April 17, 2012

RE: Text Amendment to the Land Development Code regarding Mental Health Care Facilities

This memo requests initiation of a text amendment to the Land Development Code to accommodate a request by Bert Nash to use property located at 138 Alabama Street as a **“community mental health center”**.

History

An application was submitted by Bert Nash on November 21, 2011 and considered by the Planning Commission on January 25, 2012 to rezone the property from IG (General Industrial) to H (Hospital) and employ the Hospital use for the intended use of the property, which includes a psychiatric hospital component. After the Planning Commission hearing staff and the applicant were contacted by Lawrence Memorial Hospital regarding concerns for the long term applicability of the H (Hospital) District zoning and Hospital use for this site. Upon further review of the use definitions all parties agree that the proposed use would be better served with its own use category and definition. A new use to accommodate Bert Nash's proposed program will be reviewed for placement in the appropriate zoning district. Staff preliminarily believes that a new use of this nature could be appropriately located in the GPI (General Public and Institutional) district.

This initiation action merely begins the process and the City Commission will consider them at a future meeting for final determination.

Action Requested

Initiate a text amendment to the Land Development Code to create a mental health care use within an appropriately determined existing zoning district.