

May 23, 2022

TO: Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission

RE: Rezoning 2193 Howell Road

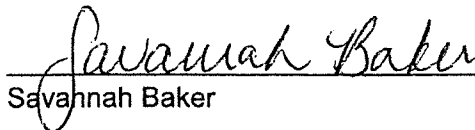
My name is Savannah Baker, I reside at 4046 Old Naylor Road (2.2 miles from 2193 Howell Road). This letter has been created with collective concerns from my family and the community that surrounds me. While we personally would love for people to receive help with overcoming their addictions, we are concerned for their choice of location, their curriculum vitae, and their goals and abilities to manage such a facility of this measure. We have researched as much information as we could on such short notice. With our research, it appears that you would only have one or two people, if any, that would possibly meet the minimum requirements to run such a facility. There are also concerns that this facility, like many, is just a way to create revenue. These concerns are being voiced based on a quote from one of the board members of Redeemed Living, when being asked how the property was going to be managed this quote stated, "This is only one of six income streams I work in monthly." While this statement might have been taken out of context, it is believed by my family and our community that their goals are not taken seriously.

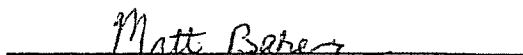
My husband and I have a total of 31 years combined law enforcement experience. Throughout our career, we have dealt with many people battling addiction. From our knowledge, training, and experience, these addictions are rarely overcome and the relapse leads to more criminal activity. We are also aware of society's need for change with drug abuse and wish that programs like these were more successful. However, from our experience and from statistics collected from The Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, and National Institute on Drug Abuse, 85% of individuals relapse within a year of treatment (National Institute on Drug Abuse), relapse for drug and alcohol use are an estimated 40-60% while in recovery(americanaddictioncenters.org). We also know that with drug abuse other criminal activity is habitual. Such crimes commonly associated with drug use range from burglary, rape, robbery, murder and other crimes all to facilitate their addiction.

With methamphetamine being very prevalent in Lowndes County, we are also aware from our law enforcement experience that methamphetamine users are extremely promiscuous and are involved in a large range of sexual crimes.

This type of facility, being run by individuals, is not regulated or required to obtain licensing or permits through the State of Georgia. This means there would be no system of checks and balances to ensure this facility is running properly and meeting expectations.

Due to our knowledge and experience we feel that this facility would be poorly run and a danger to our community. We ask that the consideration for rezoning of the property located at 2193 Howell Road be denied and never reconsidered.

  
Savannah Baker

  
Matt Baker