

Johnson, Thad A

From: Ian Apfelbaum <iapfelbaum@homelessalliance.org>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 2:14 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: SPUD- 1694

You don't often get email from iapfelbaum@homelessalliance.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Ian Apfelbaum and I am a resident of the Venice Neighborhood in Oklahoma City. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

SISU has been a vital part of our neighborhood and city's response to the housing crisis, specifically youth in our city. I know there have been concerns about expansion of the SISU shelter but I truly believe that the expansion will improve the relationship with the surrounding neighborhoods and their ability to serve youth experiencing homelessness. Everything from the fencing and an outdoor space that is enclosed and provides them with a place to spend time during closing hours will make the neighborhood feel better in the park nearby and the surrounding streets. The new buildings will provide more services and places for clients to receive services throughout the day and expand their ability to support their clients.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,

Ian Apfelbaum

Johnson, Thad A

From: Peggy Big Eagle <thepeggybigeagle@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 6:46 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Cc: Peggy Big Eagle
Subject: Sisu Youth Services SPUD-1694

[You don't often get email from thepeggybigeagle@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Commissioners,

I support Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694 application. I reside at 2407 NW 31st Street in the Shepherd neighborhood, and my name is Peggy Big Eagle. Several of our neighbors work as staff, security or have interned at Sisu. Four other neighbors help me prepare the meals I serve each month. I hope to address some of the neighbors' concerns of which I am aware.

At the recent meeting at Church of the Open Arms it was incorrectly stated that clients come and go into the late hours of the night. Sisu has staff on site 24/7 with the following schedule:

9 a.m.-10 a.m. Closed

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Open for appointments

1 p.m.-7 p.m. Walk-in hours

8 p.m. Clients with overnight reservations must be checked in

9 p.m. Curfew (The only clients allowed in after that have a verified work schedule.)

The police officer at that meeting addressed the number of calls received from Sisu. He explained how a call reported from any address is no indication of where an incident occurred; it's likely where the caller was able to call from a safe place. I think it was reassuring to neighbors who had been told about a high number of calls from Sisu without knowing the context for those statistics. In our neighborhood, as in the whole United States, there is a common misconception of crime on the rise while in fact it's been mostly in decline.

There were similar comments about youth in nearby Swatek Park. Many of us, people of all ages and lots of families use the park, and presumably unhoused folks do also. The OKC Parks and Recreation Department has no reports of ongoing issues at Swatek, and police records show just nine calls to the park during the past two years.

When Sisu moved to the present location it became more visible in the neighborhood. They continue to work with so many organizations in addition to Shepherd Neighborhood Association for things like sidewalks, additional lighting for the park, and Embark for transportation which helps the whole neighborhood. Approval of this application will help Sisu provide better support services with administrative offices and more space for classes and resource connections .

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peggy Big Eagle
405.314.2679

Johnson, Thad A

From: Bonnie Blumert <bonnie.blumert@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 11:28 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: support for SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from bonnie.blumert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of Sisu's SPUD-1694, asking that you approve the rezoning request to be sent to the City Council.

For the last seven years I have lived in the Shepherd neighborhood that borders Sisu's property. I first purchased a home on 29th Street, and after getting married, my husband and I liked the neighborhood so much we bought a house on 27th Street. One of the things I love and value about this area are the people, and the Sisu kids are a part of that. I'm glad they have a space to be safe, cared for, and supported. It is our honor and pleasure as their neighbors to play a tiny role in that.

I am aware of the misconceptions some of my neighbors have about Sisu and the services it provides. Sisu has been a topic of discussion at a few neighborhood meetings; I attend them so that I may counter inaccurate information in the hopes that support for Sisu grows (and I am not alone in that effort). I speak to my neighbors from my experience: I spend a lot of time walking and running in our neighborhood and I have never had any encounter with a young person that caused me to fear for my safety. I'm happy to see Sisu youth using the park and enjoying the neighborhood we share with them.

Sisu provides a necessary service to youth whose adults and families have failed them. I fully support Sisu having access to resources and property it needs to best provide those services. I am honored as their neighbor to stand with them in this request. Please send this SPUD to the City Council for a vote.

Bonnie Blumert
2320 NW 27th St
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
bonnie.blumert@gmail.com

Johnson, Thad A

From: Adam Call <adamleoncall@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 5:58 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Sisu Letter of Support

You don't often get email from adamleoncall@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Adam Call and I am a resident located directly adjacent to Swatek Park in the Shepherd Historic District at 2328 NW 29th Street. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

There have been a small but loud number of my bigoted neighbors complaining that Sisu has made the PUBLIC park in the neighborhood worse by simply existing and some of those individuals utilizing their services accessing this PUBLIC space. However as someone who has lived on the park for a few years now when there are issues at the park often they're unhoused adults OR seemingly regular adults OR further housed teens using a public park in ways that I would not.

If there are issues with these public spaces being "misused" I believe it not to be Sisu supported youth rather the larger issue of poverty and those adult individuals and housed youths not having a third space that they can afford to attend regularly. Therefore as a tax payer I am more than thrilled to extend a small broad burdened cost for even these persons to have a place to exist in our city.

With that said I fully support the work Sisu does as it is work I would not do but yet work that must be done as youth homelessness is in fact an issue that exists here, tangibly, today, in our neighborhood.

For those complaining about Sisu's youth services i ask them - if not Sisu in our neighborhood who will do this work that you so egregiously pretend doesn't need to be done?

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,

Adam Call

479-925-5276
adamleoncall@gmail.com

Johnson, Thad A

From: Anthony Carfang <anthony.carfang@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 10:38 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Supporting Sisu - SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from anthony.carfang@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Tony Carfang, a resident of the Shepherd Neighborhood (2324 NW 26th), and past president of Church of the Open Arms. I am writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

Prior to Sisu having their own building on NW 30th, they operated out of our church (with office spaces, community room, bunk rooms, and bathrooms). I believe very strongly in their mission, and the need for providing safe spaces for otherwise homeless youth is critical for our city. My relationship with the Sisu organization, as well as the clients they support, has been positive and warm. It was not an ideal space for them, but better than nothing. Their program and their clients have thrived much better in their own dedicated space, with much better facilities and lighting than what our church was able to provide.

As a resident, I walk my dog around Swatek Park daily, and my daughter plays there regularly. It is also a common daytime hangout for some of Sisu's clients. Without fail, they give my dog LOTS of positive attention, and while I'm pushing my daughter on the swings, they have happily taken my dog on a few laps around the park (including picking up after him). I share this as it's critical to understand that Sisu clients are warm, welcoming young folks, delightful to interact with, and deserving of a stable roof over their heads.

As youth homelessness is on the rise, Sisu deserves support, as well as growth to meet the tragic and vital needs of our youth. SPUD-1694 doesn't ask for anything new to the area, just a little growth to what is already there, with significant noble outcomes for our community.

Thank you for your support,
-Tony

Anthony Carfang
Church of the Open Arms - Past President
3131 N Penn Ave, Oklahoma City, OK
847-208-7038

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"It's like a finger pointing to the moon. If you concentrate on the finger, you will miss all that heavenly glory". - Bruce Lee

Johnson, Thad A

From: Erin Goodin <egoodin@cityrescue.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 4:04 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Support for Sisu's SPUD-1694 Application at 2121 NW 30th Street

You don't often get email from egoodin@cityrescue.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Erin Goodin, and I am the President and CEO of City Rescue Mission. I am writing to express our support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694 application for the property located at 2121 NW 30th Street.

Sisu provides vital services to youth experiencing homelessness, offering shelter, case management, and housing programs that promote long-term stability. As a partner in addressing homelessness in Oklahoma City, we understand the significant impact their work has on the youth they serve. The proposed plans will allow Sisu to expand their campus and enhance their ability to support young people in need, aligning with their previous approval for an adjacent property in 2020.

We believe this application is a critical step in addressing the increasing rates of youth homelessness in our community, and we fully support Sisu's efforts to build a stronger, more comprehensive campus for those they serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Erin Goodin
President & CEO
City Rescue Mission
(405) 456-0700
cityrescue.org



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For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Johnson, Thad A

From: Conner Currier <currier.conner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 4:02 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Sisu, SPUD-1649 letter of support

You don't often get email from currier.conner@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Conner Currier and I am a resident of OKC at 2028 NW 31st Ter, OKC, OK 73118. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

I am both a nearby neighbor to Sisu and a volunteer at Sisu. The services they provide for the homeless young people of OKC is so critical especially being the only service that caters to that age group. I know that other nearby neighbors have had a few difficult encounters with clients of Sisu that linger around their properties. And I know their privacy and safety is very important. That being said, with Sisu's new plan for the empty lot next door I believe it will provide a much better barrier and other amenities for the clients to hopefully reduce any unwanted incidents. It's been a pleasure to work with them and see actual growth and progress in these people's lives as a result of receiving services at Sisu.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,
Conner Currier

Johnson, Thad A

From: Sarah Donovan <sdono888@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 12:37 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: SISU SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from sdono888@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Sarah Donovan and I am a resident at 36th and May. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

I am a successful small business owner and am currently transitioning careers at OU to get my masters in social work. One of my practicums was at SISU, and I got to learn so much about their mission and how they help the youth community in desperate need. The people who keep the wheels turning at SISU are the reason these youths have hope. They know that people care about them and that they are valuable. Seeing the same people consistently and having a home to retreat to at the end of a hard day, as an adolescent without a home, provides a sense of safety and security that contributes to their overall well-being and success. At SISU they are given opportunities and resources that they undoubtedly would not have if SISU did not exist. SISU is doing extremely important work, and the people who oppose SPUD-1694 are probably lucky enough to not know how desperate these kids are who are seeking shelter at such a wonderful place they can call home.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,
Sarah Donovan

Johnson, Thad A

From: Sara Cunningham <sara@freemomhugs.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 11:40 AM
To: Rachel.Bradley; PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Sisu SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from sara@freemomhugs.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Oklahoma City Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to you today as the Founder of Free Mom Hugs and as a mother who raised two children in this area and still calls it home. It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for Sisu's SPUD-1694 proposal.

Sisu has been a vital resource in our community, providing shelter, safety, and stability for youth facing homelessness or other crises. Their work not only addresses immediate needs but also provides hope, encouragement, and the tools young people need to build secure, independent futures. The proposed rezoning request simply incorporates an adjacent lot into their existing property, allowing them to continue expanding their capacity and impact in a thoughtful, planned way.

As a longtime resident of this area, I believe the improvements Sisu is proposing will benefit every member of this community. It's disappointing that it has taken this level of effort to move forward with something that should be seen as an investment in our neighborhood's well-being. Safe, supportive spaces like Sisu bring stability and care, and their growth should be celebrated—not challenged. It's unfortunate that misinformation has clouded this discussion, but I believe the facts speak for themselves.

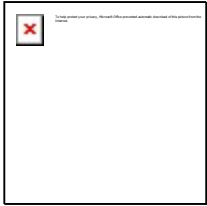
Sisu represents the very best of what our city can offer—compassion, innovation, and leadership in caring for its most vulnerable residents. I urge the Planning Commission to approve this request, enabling Sisu to continue their important mission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Sara Cunningham

Founder, Free Mom Hugs



Sara Cunningham

(she/her/hers)

Founder and Chief Inspiration Officer

freemomhugs.org

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From: Annie Gibson <annie.m.gibson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 5:50 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Support for Sisu Youth Services' SPUD-1694 Application

You don't often get email from annie.m.gibson@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Annie Gibson, and I am a proud resident of the Sequoyah neighborhood in Oklahoma City. My home is just a few blocks directly north of Sisu Youth Services, at 2145 NW 35th Street. I am writing to voice my strong support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694 application.

As a neighbor, I have seen firsthand the incredible positive impact Sisu has had on our community. Their services provide a safe and supportive environment for youth experiencing homelessness, fulfilling a critical need in our city. Over time, I have witnessed our neighborhood grow safer, more vibrant, and more connected—a transformation I attribute in part to the stability and hope Sisu brings to vulnerable young people.

Since moving to my home in 2021, I've seen clear signs of a safer community, and a lot of that in the past couple years. Couples now stroll with their dogs in the evenings. Early-morning joggers pass by, kids play basketball in driveways, and homes light up during the holidays with warmth and pride. I personally feel safe walking alone to take my dogs to Swatek Park before sunrise. Sisu's presence, both before and after their move from Church of the Open Arms, has been nothing but positive for our neighborhood.

This application does not ask for anything new beyond including an adjacent lot into Sisu's existing property. This change would allow Sisu to enhance its campus and provide more robust services to the youth they serve. These efforts are critical as youth homelessness in our community has increased by 100% over the past five years.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to approve SPUD-1694 so Sisu can continue their invaluable work, helping to shape brighter futures for our youth and maintaining the positive momentum in our neighborhood.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Annie Gibson

Johnson, Thad A

From: Meghan Mueller <MMueller@homelessalliance.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 8:17 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: SISU SPUD-1694

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Commissioners,

My name is Meghan Mueller, and I am the current CEO of the Homeless Alliance, a nonprofit located in Oklahoma City. I and the rest of the Homeless Alliance leadership team are writing to express our support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

As a fellow service provider working with Oklahomans experiencing homelessness, we recognize and support the incredible work that Sisu does in the community. They are a vital part of Oklahoma City's system of care that provide transformational support to youth experiencing homelessness. We believe that homelessness is complicated, and it takes organizations, businesses, people, and government working together to make an impact. Sisu's focused approach to their clients fills a gap that would otherwise leave some of our most vulnerable young people without the resources or assistance to thrive.

Sisu's SPUD-1694 requests provisions that have already been approved for their currently operational shelter space. Moving forward with the application will allow for better resource deployment by Sisu staff, which will lead to even more support for the clients the organization already serves. Approval of this application will allow for future impact to be made as we work together as a community to end homelessness.

Respectfully,

Meghan Mueller, LSW-ADMIN (she/her)

The Homeless Alliance

1724 NW 4th

Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Office: 405-415-8456

www.HomelessAlliance.org

The Homeless Alliance is *rallying our community to end homelessness*.

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Johnson, Thad A

From: Dan Straughan <DanStraughan@homelessalliance.org>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 11:23 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Cc: Rachel.Bradley
Subject: SPUD 1694

You don't often get email from danstraughan@homelessalliance.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

As you may have heard in recent national news stories, homelessness increased significantly all across the nation in 2024. Oklahoma City was not immune from that trend with our Point in Time count increasing 28% from 2023 to 2024 after more than a decade of essentially flat numbers. Our community has taken a thoughtful, collaborative approach to trying to bend that trend downward with Sisu being a significant component of that work. Because Sisu serves homeless and at-risk transition-age youth, their programs are particularly critical to our community's efforts as early intervention can help to prevent future homelessness. The programming space proposed in this SPUD will enable Sisu to provide the supportive services (healthcare, counseling, etc) that can end an individual's homelessness and intervene in the behaviors that could result in future homelessness.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving SPUD 1694, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan Straughan

Chief of Special Projects

The Homeless Alliance

www.HomelessAlliance.org

The Homeless Alliance is *rallying our community to end homelessness*.

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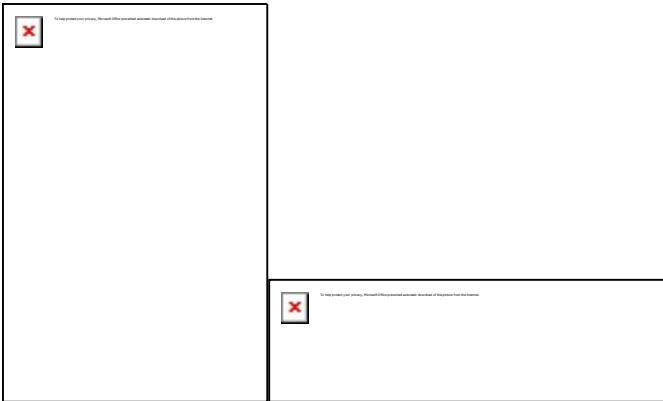
Johnson, Thad A

From: Scarlet Le-Cao <scarlet@moderntouchbyomega.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 11:04 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: SPUD -1694

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated and may not match the person in the "From" field..

We support the SPUD.

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Scarlet Le-Cao
20 NW 13th Street ,Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

FYI: I respond faster through text messages if you need my attention right away. Email responses can take up to 3 days (or more). For any discussion, please call me 405.200.9303. It will avoid lots of email chains.

Commissioners,

My name is Dennis J. Meyer, MSW and I am a resident of the Epworth Neighborhood. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

As a proud donor, volunteer, and former employee of Sisu, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact this organization has on our community's youth. Sisu's dedication to providing a safe haven, resources, and unwavering support for marginalized young people is truly inspiring. It is crucial to protect and serve our youth, as they are the future of our society. By empowering them and addressing their unique challenges, we help build a stronger, more compassionate community where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. Supporting Sisu means investing in the potential and well-being of our youth, ensuring they have the tools and support needed to overcome adversity and achieve their dreams.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis J. Meyer, MSW".

Dennis J. Meyer, MSW

Johnson, Thad A

From: Taylor .McKenzie <iresignhc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 9:31 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Sequoyah Neighborhood Resident in Support of Sisu

You don't often get email from iresignhc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there,

My name is Taylor McKenzie. I live at 2436 NW 33rd Street. Sisu is in my neighborhood, and I am proud of what the organization is doing. I heard that some people have protested against Sisu's rezoning request to include an adjacent lot that they already own into their current property for future construction. As a proud homeowner of 5+ years in the neighborhood, I am fully in support of Sisu and their mission. Thank you for your time!

Best,
Taylor

Johnson, Thad A

From: Jessica <jessica.nicole.maier@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 11:54 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Sisu application

You don't often get email from jessica.nicole.maier@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Jessica Maier and I am a resident of 2215 NW 25th street in Shepherd Neighborhood. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

I fully support the mission of Sisu- there is a large and ever growing unhoused population in our city. Especially in this area of the N Pennsylvania Ave between NW 10th and NW 39th streets. I think that providing services and housing programs for unhoused youth and young people is essential for helping the community. If we can help the young people struggling with barriers to affordable housing, this could help to curb the sheer volume of our unhoused population.

I have personally seen SISU begin as a volunteer run operation to what it is today. I believe in the mission and in its potential to grow and provide more services to more people in need.

I strongly implore you to not be hasty with these decisions. Sweet lives hang in the balance.

This is a delicate, nuanced issue, and I stand FIRMLY with Sisu. I will support in any and every way I can.

As someone who grew up in the neighborhood, my family grew up here, we own the house and take pride in the neighborhood.

I also want to re-iterate:

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,

Jessica
Maier
(405)
637-9100

Howard, Gabriel J

From: Abby Randall <abby.randall@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 6:42 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Support for Sisu and SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from abby.randall@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Abby Randall and I am a resident of Shepherd Historic District. I am writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694 at 2121 NW 30th Street.

Sisu offers essential services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. SISU is a huge asset to our community and all of my interactions with their staff and the young people they serve have been very positive.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in the SPUD-1694 application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,

Abby Randall
2804 NW 28th St
Oklahoma City

(c) 512 658 0055

Johnson, Thad A

From: Angie Reap <angiereap@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 12:43 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Support for Sisu's SPUD-1694 application at 2121 NW 30th Street.

You don't often get email from angiereap@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Angela Reap, and I am a resident of the Shepherd Neighborhood. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

As a retired high school teacher, I strongly support all services that can be offered to unhoused youth. Most of these young people have found themselves in their predicament, not because of their behavior or choices, but instead because of the behavior of their guardians. Young people have so much talent and enthusiasm just waiting to be fostered and nurtured, which is the job of parents, schools, and other helpful adults. When unhoused youth lack supportive parents, access to good school teachers, counselors, and informed and well-intentioned adults, they are almost guaranteed failure. This is simply a travesty, not just for the young person, but for society in general in so many ways. Services like SISU are so very important for our society and for the young people they service. Although I have only had a few interactions with the staff at SISU, I have always been impressed by how informed and transparent they are, how they truly seem to care about the youth, and how willing they are to work with their Shepherd neighbors. I am in support of SISU being "in my backyard". As a matter of fact, I'm proud that it's here!

Additionally, my husband Mark and I have lived in this neighborhood for 35 years. We have seen no increase in crime, and we feel comfortable using Swatek Park for walking, which we frequently do. We are very aware that according to the LexisNexis Community Crime Map for our area, crime has actually decreased instead of increasing since the arrival of SISU in 2016.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services. Consequently, I hope you elect to do what is necessary to keep this important OKC citizens provided with the resources and services they need to flourish and become strong citizens for our community.

Sincerely,

Angela Reap
2214 NW 27th Street
OKC 73107

405 426-9428

Howard, Gabriel J

From: Jon Reinke <vonjon2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 11:03 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: SISU SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from vonjon2000@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Esteemed councilors and staff:

I am in favor of the proposed expansion for a number of reasons.

First and foremost, SISU will be continuing operations at this location so it only makes sense to give them the tools that they need to be able to do their jobs better. The office space, enclosed outdoor area and other benefits in this expansion will help them not only be more effective in their efforts, but will also give them the space and resources to address many of the concerns that the neighboring homes have brought to the table.

I had the opportunity to write in support of the initial SPUD and I still believe everything I wrote at that time. SISU and other programs like it are vital parts of not only our community but our humanity.

It is my hope that as we move forward, SISU continues to get support from our community and our city so that we can all have a better future.

Best regards,

Jon Reinke

Dear members of the Oklahoma City Planning Commission,

As a long time resident of Shepherd Historic, I am writing in support of SPUD-1694, proposed by Sisu Youth Services. While I am sympathetic to the concerns of expansion, and aware of the increased presence of unhoused individuals in and around Swatek Park, I personally feel this proposal offers practical and sustainable solutions, benefitting both the youth served and our surrounding neighborhoods.

This SPUD enables vital improvements including a dedicated daytime space and secure fenced grounds. This addition will also allow for expanded services, including educational, mental/physical health, and career focused aid. These enhancements will naturally reduce youth presence in public spaces while creating pathways toward stable housing and employment.

There is certainly no denying the fact that issues have arisen this past year, but Sisu has demonstrated their commitment to being good neighbors through clean-up initiatives and youth education programs. SPUD-1694 will strengthen their ability to serve vulnerable youth while enhancing the well-being of us who live in close proximity to their facility. Over the past 12 months, I have found the Sisu leadership to be responsive and respectful of any issue that which I have brought forth.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to approve this thoughtful proposal.

In gratitude,

Erica Taylor

Johnson, Thad A

From: Matt S <matt.spidell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 12:46 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Support for SPUD-1694

You don't often get email from matt.spidell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the rezoning application submitted by Sisu Youth Services through SPUD-1694. This rezoning is crucial for expanding vital services for youth experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City.

Benefits for Youth Experiencing Homelessness with SPUD-1694:

This rezoning will directly benefit youth experiencing homelessness in Oklahoma City by increasing shelter capacity. Expanding Sisu's facilities will provide more beds for young people in need of emergency shelter and transitional housing.

This rezoning will also help to create a pathway to stability. By providing safe and supportive housing, Sisu helps youth break the cycle of homelessness and build a brighter future.

I urge the Planning Commission to carefully consider the evidence and approve this vital rezoning application. Investing in our youth is an investment in the future of our city.

Addressing Concerns Raised by Neighbors:

I understand that some neighbors have expressed concerns about this project. However, many of these concerns appear to be based on sensationalism and misinformation. Let's address some common misconceptions:

"Increased Crime": Sisu has a proven track record of providing safe and supportive services to youth. Studies have shown that well-run shelters and supportive housing programs actually reduce crime rates in surrounding areas by providing stability and support to vulnerable individuals. Oklahoma City Police Department's crime statistics even show a continued decline in crime in our area, and allegations of connections to Sisu are misplaced and misconstrued.

"Decreased Property Values": Quality developments, including those that serve the community, can actually enhance property values by improving the overall quality of life in a neighborhood.

On a personal note, I frequently interact with youth from SISU. I regularly take my one year old son to nearby Swatek Park. The youths who also frequent that park - some of them presumably from SISU - have been nothing but respectful and kind to me and my son. I sincerely believe that most opponents of this rezoning and of SISU Youth Services would rather sweep the larger issue of youth homelessness under the rug instead of facing it or even talking to young people.

Sincerely,

Matthew Spidell
2229 NW 30th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Johnson, Thad A

From: Paul Thompson <captbunzo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 10:30 AM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: Support for Sisu's SPUD-1694 Application at 2121 NW 30th Street

You don't often get email from captbunzo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Paul Thompson and I am a resident of 1429 NW 30th Street, OKC. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

When I moved to Oklahoma City two and half years ago, I was mourning the loss of the child of some dear friends. She had recently died through complications relating to being unhoused. I was looking for a way to honor her life by giving back to my local community and Sisu was exactly the right fit.

I started volunteering with Sisu and was overjoyed with their mission and the help they provide to the unhoused youth in our city. Sisu provides a vital need in our community. And it does so with great care for being good citizens in the community at the same time. It has been a privilege being part of the volunteer team and I look forward to many years and the hundreds of youth that will be helped by Sisu.

I only wish a resource like Sisu would have been available for the child of my friends when she was struggling, but rest better knowing that it is here for the youth of OKC.

I would also like to comment about the misinformation that is being spread about crime in the area.

OCPD's crime statistics show a continued decline in the area around Sisu, and allegations of connections to Sisu are misplaced and misconstrued. OCPD Chief Bacy confirmed on 12/31/24 that they have received a total of 42 calls to Sisu's address since Dec 2023 and only 9 calls to Swatek park over the past two years. The Parks and Rec Dept confirmed they have received no direct citizen's complaints about Swatek.

The chart below shows OCPD crime statistics for our area over the past 15 years.



As can be seen, the area surrounding 2129 NW 30th Street is indeed becoming safer and safer, including more dramatically since Sisu had its grand opening there a little over a year ago.

Everything that Sisu is asking for in this application was already approved for their adjacent property in 2020. By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,
Paul Thompson

Johnson, Thad A

From: Periann Pulliam <ppulliam@upwardtransitions.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 4:48 PM
To: PL, Subdivision and Zoning
Subject: support for Sisu's SPUD-1694 application at 2121 NW 30th Street.

You don't often get email from ppulliam@upwardtransitions.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Commissioners,

My name is Periann Pulliam and I reside at 10213 Mantle Drive in Oklahoma City. I am the CEO of Upward Transitions located at 1134 W. Main Street in Oklahoma City. I'm writing to express my support for Sisu Youth Services and their SPUD-1694.

Upward Transitions works to remove barriers for families and individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. We've served the Oklahoma City Community for 100 years, and we have seen the number of unhoused youth grow in our community over the past few years. Sisu has been an indispensable partner in our work to remove barriers for unhoused youth, and Sisu's overnight emergency shelter, drop-in center, case management services, and housing programs for people ages of 15-24 are critical to our community.

It is my understanding all uses proposed in the new SPUD were included in the 2020 SPUD, and the current facility is already zoned for all of these uses. The new SPUD-1694 mirrors the language on the original SPUD-1257. Adding the empty lot into the plans allows Sisu to build a better version of the campus and address neighbors' concerns. The new construction primarily focuses on building out the infrastructure to offer the supportive services such as a medical clinic, groups, classes, tutoring, and therapy on-site as well as a secure outdoor area.

By approving today's application, Sisu will be able to build a better campus than imagined four years ago and our community will be able to provide more robust care to the youth who are already utilizing emergency services.

Respectfully,

Periann Pulliam
Chief Executive Officer
Upward Transitions, Inc.
1134 W. Main Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

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ppulliam@upwardtransitions.org
www.UpwardTransitions.org



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