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**From:** Lockaton, Robin D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 1:53 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Floan; Planning Admin  
**Cc:** The Mayor; Ward2; PL, Subdivision and Zoning  
**Subject:** RE: SPUD1694 SISU Youth Services

Good afternoon

Thank you for contacting the Planning Department, I have forwarded this message to our Subdivision and Zoning department.

Thank you Robin Lockaton

Robin Lockaton, Administrative Assistant  
Planning Department  
City of Oklahoma City  
Ph: 405-297-2515 Email: robin.lockaton@okc.gov



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**From:** Jennifer Floan <jfloan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 1:44 PM  
**To:** Planning Admin <PlanningAdmin@okc.gov>  
**Cc:** The Mayor <mayor@okc.gov>; Ward2 <ward2@okc.gov>  
**Subject:** SPUD1694 SISU Youth Services

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [jfloan@yahoo.com](mailto:jfloan@yahoo.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Planning Commissioners,

I'm reaching out as a local neighbor to the SISU Youth Services organization located off of NW 30th St. I see that there is an upcoming Planning Commission and SISU has submitted a SPUD for approval. I want to make you all aware of what has been going on in the local community that surrounds SISU, because if this SPUD is approved as is, it could very potentially increase the negative outcome the neighborhoods surrounding Swatek Park have been experiencing since SISU has expanded services. Over the past couple of years SISU seems to have reduced efforts to provide the homeless youth that reside at their facility in the evenings the care and mentorship they need, outside of providing them a nightly bed to sleep in and some clothing, personal items, and a meal.

I make this statement, because many of the youth that stay there in the evenings are not being provided the resources they need to end their cycle of homelessness. This has been made evident to the surrounding neighborhoods, because many of the youth in their care have been caught during the day breaking into vehicles and homes, but lately they have also been hanging out at Swatek Park that is a block away from the SISU shelter. Hanging out at the park in itself is not an issue and they are welcome to be at the park, but where the community is having an issue with this is that the SISU youth have been leaving their trash and personal items scattered around the pavilion, partaking in drinking and drugs in the park, and being generally disrespectful and threatening to locals that frequent the park. Pictures have been taken of needles that have been found lying around playground equipment, with one little girl digging in the playground mulch and finding a needle that had been buried, and empty alcohol containers laying around, most of the time within a few feet of a trash can. One member of the local neighborhood approached the SISU youth to turn down their music at the park and a

knife was pulled on her. When I take my toddler to go play, we frequently smell cigarettes and weed from the playground equipment a few feet from the pavilion they hang out under and I have caught youth smoking weed in the tube slide. A couple of weeks ago, one of the neighbors contacted SISU about some 13 of their youth hanging out at the park and drinking alcohol. The SISU security guard informed the neighbor not to approach them, because one of the youth had a hand gun.

The local neighbors have been reaching out to SISU to try and work with them to help resolve the issues we have been experiencing in the area, but SISU has responded by stating that the youth are not their responsibility during the day and that it is fully on the neighborhoods/local community to deal with the increased criminal activity associated with the youth. I disagree with their response, because most of us in the neighborhood/local community are not case managers, social workers, or counselors that have the experience or trained skill set to help provide these youth with drug and alcohol rehabilitation or help them develop skill sets to find employment in the future, all of which SISU states they are capable of doing, which is why people trust to donate and support them. This is why I state that SISU has reduced their efforts in helping to youth in their facility end the cycle of homelessness.

I and many of my neighbors want the SISU youth to be successful in getting out of homelessness, but many of us have become jaded with the lack of responsibility that SISU takes in actually supporting and assisting this vulnerable population. I believe you have a right to know how this organization is negatively affecting the community around them and the lack of assistance they are providing the population they are to be serving and requesting to expand services to. What we as the surrounding community would like to see as a step to ensuring that the youth seeking assistance are met with the necessary resources is to remove the low barrier standard and make it a transitional facility until SISU has the staff, resources, and a well organized transitional program that would allow for a low-barrier shelter to operate and provide the youth that stay in the facility with an opportunity to move into the transitional facility. We would also like to see the age limit to stay at the facility be capped at 20 years of age. Currently they allow youth 15-22 years of age to stay at the night shelter and youth 23-24 years of age are allowed to utilize the daytime community center. I believe these steps would streamline funding to the homeless youth that are working to get out of homelessness and it would focus funding on the youth that are still in school or recently graduated from school, instead of perpetuating homelessness with a group that is using it as a means for a meal and bed, but have no intention of ending their drug/alcohol abuse and/or criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods. If SPUD 1694 is approved by the City Council without any changes to the current operations at SISU, those of us that reside in the area are concerned and fearful that what has already been taking place is going to only get worse, because we will see an increase in more unhoused youth in the area that are not being provided proper guidance and assistance by SISU Youth Services.

I also want to provide some of the crime rates from the past two years from the SISU facilities and Swatek Park. One of my neighbors requested this data from the OKC Police Department. In 2023, SISU was located a few doors away from their current location at the Church of the Open Arms on N Penn Ave. In January of this year they relocated to their current location on NW 30th St, which is why you will see both Church of the Open Arms and NW 30th St data listed under 2024. My neighbor requested for the records of all the different types of phone calls that were placed in and to both locations for 2023 and 2024 and for all calls to and from Swatek Park. While we have the full year's worth of data for 2023, 2024 is only 10 months of data (January - October). Total calls to SISU and Swatek in 2023 were 265 and so far the total calls for 2024 are 299. This is over a 10% increase in calls to the Police Department and 2024 still has two more months of data to add into the total. This data doesn't include any calls to locations in the surrounding neighborhoods or local businesses and doesn't include calls to the Fire Department or EMSA, which are also quite frequent. Below is a breakdown of the types of calls made to and from the SISU locations for 2023 and 2024.

	2023 (Full Year)	2024 (Jan - Oct data)	
Types of Calls	SISU - Church of the Open Arms	Church of the Open Arms post SISU	SISU - NW 30th St
Disturbances	26	9	40
Assault	13	0	8
Domestic Violence	7	2	6
Assault w/ a Deadly Weapon	3	1	3
Larceny	2	0	10
Burglary	1	0	0
Rape	2	0	0
Armed Robbery	1	0	0

Robbery by Fear & Force	1	0	1
Misc Calls	178	41	127
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Total Calls to Swatek Park</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>51</b>	

Thank you for your time in hearing out the situation that the local community is dealing with around SISU Youth Services. I have attached two separate news articles below, one from May and one from this November, and I also have attached photos of what Swatek Park looks like on a regular basis, with one of them showing a needle that was left behind in the park a few weeks ago and another that was found and collected last night.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Floan-Cao  
[jfloan@yahoo.com](mailto:jfloan@yahoo.com)

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