

Susan M. McClain
5705 Archtree Place
Louisville, KY 40229

December 22, 2017

Zoning Commission
444 S 5th St #300
Louisville, KY 40202

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support Michael McCloud in his hope to open a group home for youth. I have known Mr. McCloud for several years while we have worked together to make educational opportunities more equitable in Jefferson County Public Schools. I know him to be an honest, responsible person who will contribute to the community and be a role model not only for the youth in his group home but for everyone in the neighborhood.

I am a teacher in JCPS and have invited Mr. McCloud to visit my classroom on more than one occasion. He speaks to my students about respect for self and others, responsibility, the importance of education, and awareness of the importance of their roles in their homes and communities. My students love him and want him to visit more often.

i hope the Zoning Commission will give approval for his group home. The residents will greatly benefit from Mr. McCloud's vision and so will the community.

Respectfully,
Susan M. McClain

As a person who has been in the system since age 13 (now 18) I understand the importance of needing a place where you feel safe. Where you don't have to necessarily wonder where your next meal will come from. Another outlook on life. That's exactly what an alternative home gives children. I was at Maryhurst in 2013 and I had the pleasure of having Mr. Mike (Michael McCloud) as a staff member. I will never forget his loving and nurturing personality. He took every single child that came through that door under his wing and made it a mission to impact their life in a positive way. There was many times where I felt like I should just give up but Mr. Mike would talk to me and calm me down. I believe allowing him to open up this Group Home he will make a difference in many children's lives. I don't think the location of the home will effect the children. When a child feels safe and is given a second opportunity outside of the toxic environment they came from they can prosper and grow into responsible adults.

-Brooke

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There are so many young teen boys at the age of 15-18 that go through problems or some issues more than others. To be honest teen boys in general, even grown men, in the world of 2017 struggle to talk about or even start to address their true feelings. This could hold them back in so many ways. Having a group home for these individuals gives them more reason to believe in the word "hope". This group home will give these teens the strength to overcome their obstacles and navigate their own journeys throughout life.

Life never gets any easier but offering access to skills and life resources is something Mr. Mike has done for many kids over the years of his career. I was in a group home myself, does that make me any different? Yes, but it gave me every opportunity to feel included and to grab my own success. Teen group homes don't just give teens someone to open up to but they show the disbelievers that these teens can do something amazing with their life despite their battle scars. Amazing things like getting their first job. Places like this help with trauma troubled children being able to talk through with their rough times, practice filling out job applications to prepare for manhood, instill responsibility, build trust, and even teaches basic conversation with other people and much more. This program teaches them techniques to cope with their emotions and express them in the right manner. Mr. Mike is a great fit to help these teens such as themselves. He is not only reliable and trustworthy, but he puts so much effort and heart into what he does, and this shows through Mr. Mike's actions. This will be a great beginning for more accomplishments and success to be brought into the world for years to come.

-Debra

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