

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR INTERPRETATION

DATE: November 25, 2008

CODE SECTION: Section 17.80.020 – Definition of Life/Care Facilities.

QUESTION NEEDING INTERPRETATION: The definition of Life/Care Facilities states that the use shall contain independent living units, residential care facilities, and continuing care, Alzheimer and related facilities. Is the intent of this definition to require facilities for just patients suffering from Alzheimer disease or was the intent to require skilled nursing facilities?

INTERPRETATION: The definition of Life/Care facilities is as follows:

Life/Care Facilities (land use). An integrated facility that provides accommodations for, and varying level of care to, residents depending on need. The use shall contain the following components: independent living units, residential care facilities, and continuing care, Alzheimer and related facilities.

In this definition the term “continuing care, Alzheimer and related facilities” is used. This is saying that Alzheimer’s is just an example or one type of dementia and that other types would be included as “related facilities.” I checked the original City Council report when this was added to the Zoning Code and there was no reference to Alzheimer’s.

It is my interpretation that the intent of this provision is to require a skilled nursing component. This would be able to treat Alzheimer’s as well as other types of dementia. This would be consistent with the definition as a continuum of care would still be required.



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