

August 22, 2019

To: Mayor John Haila and members of the Ames City Council

From: Bill Vaughn, President/CEO Mainstream Living

Mainstream Living has provided residential and community services to individuals with disabilities for nearly 45 years. As one of the largest providers in central Iowa, we are proud to serve hundreds of individuals and families on a daily basis. Our programs in Ames include Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) that are provided in homes owned and/or operated by our organization as well as services provided in an individual's own home. We also operate a large community integration program that provides skill development, volunteerism, socialization, and employment supports.

Due to growing requests for services as well as emerging needs to accommodate more individuals in wheelchairs, we are interested in constructing additional group homes in Ames. I understand that the city recently purchased a property at 1417 Douglas Avenue and will be working to demolish the current home. Rather than place the property on the market, I would respectfully request that council consider selling the property to Mainstream Living at an amount equal to or less than the costs borne by the city. We would plan to construct a five bedroom (maximum allowed by state law) wheel-chair accessible group home which would provide needed housing for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Our efforts to construct additional community housing in Ames supports council's affordable housing and human service goals. The individuals we serve can all be considered low or very low income individuals according to HUD guidelines and can often have difficulties obtaining accessible and affordable housing. We believe the home is in an ideal location as it is close to Downtown Ames and medical facilities and integrated into an established neighborhood. We place a high priority on ensuring that our homes and our members live in settings that support independence and foster a sense of community.

Mainstream Living has been fortunate to partner with the city of Ames many times since we opened our first home. We have been the beneficiary of CDBG funding as well as your recent capital grant which allowed us to remodel two homes into wheel-chair accessible properties. We hope you'll again consider partnering with us as we work to open a new home for individuals with disabilities. This is an important project as we work to continually fulfill our mission to enhance opportunities, create success, and fulfill dreams.

Thank you for considering our request.



Bill Vaughn
President/CEO