



# MEMO

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Jeramy Neefus, Principal Clerk, City Manager's Office  
**Date:** March 21, 2025  
**Subject:** Packet of Communications to Council

Listed below are the communications to the City Council known to staff as of March 21, 2025:

1. Andrew Allen, President & CEO of YSS – March 12, 2025  
**RE:** Request for CDBG Funding for Recovery Housing
2. Emily Anderson, Ames Resident – March 14, 2025  
**RE:** N. Riverside Drive Parking Concerns

## Hall, Renee

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**From:** Andrew Allen <AAllen@yss.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 6:07 PM  
**To:** City Council and Mayor; Haila, John; Baker-Latimer, Vanessa  
**Cc:** Belinda Meis; Lisa Hoffman; Renata Streck  
**Subject:** Support for Recovery Housing & CDBG Funding – Community & City Partnership

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Haila, Ames City Council Members, and Vanessa -

Let me start by expressing gratitude for the City of Ames' longstanding support of YSS and our mission. For nearly 50 years, we have been deeply embedded in this community, serving youth and young adults in need of behavioral health, housing, and recovery services.

As YSS transitions its residential programs to Ember Recovery Campus in rural Story County, neighbors in the Old Town Historic District have reached out, urging us to stay. Specifically they've told me they miss seeing our youth, appreciate their respectful presence, and value our staff's professionalism. With 804 Kellogg vacated and 703 Burnett soon to follow, the community wants these properties to continue serving young people in need.

Our initial assessment was that the cost to renovate these facilities far outweighed their value, which led us to explore selling them. The sale fell through. Now, after engaging a new contractor, we have determined that a less intrusive renovation approach is possible, allowing us to restore these properties in a way that is both financially responsible and mission-aligned.

With this in mind, we are seeking the City's support and guidance to help us move forward with our plan to create recovery housing, a critical piece of our continuum of care. This would ensure young people transitioning out of substance use treatment at Ember Recovery Campus have access to stable housing, workforce development, and long-term recovery support in Ames.

While I'm sure there's a formal process, we want ask directly how we might forward with the following request:

1. **Allocate existing FY24-25 CDBG funds to support the renovation of 703 Burnett and 804 Kellogg for recovery housing.** We've already secured \$181,500 from Story County for 703 Burnett and are actively raising additional funds. We also ask that recovery housing be prioritized in the FY25-26 CDBG funding plan to ensure transitional housing for youth and young adults remains a key focus for Ames.
2. **Revisit the \$1.2 million in HOME-ARPA funds currently reserved for non-congregate shelter to explore whether some of these funds could support recovery housing.**
3. **Appoint a city liaison to assist in navigating funding opportunities, zoning, permitting, and compliance with historic district.** This support would be key to ensuring these renovations move forward efficiently and align with city and community goals.

This project represents a significant step toward addressing housing instability, reducing homelessness, and building on the momentum of Ember Recovery Campus...the largest investments in Iowa's children's behavioral health ever. It will allow youth in recovery to remain in Ames, pursue education and employment, contribute to the workforce, and build new lives as productive members of the community.

One young man at Ember Recovery was homeless in Ames before treatment. Without local recovery housing, he'll have to relocate to Des Moines. With these renovations, he could stay, work through YSS's workforce program, and rebuild his life here.

We are fundraising but need the City's help to close the gap. The ~\$1.3 million renovation (about \$100/sf) is a sound investment in restoring these historic properties for recovery housing. We will refine plans and comply with all regulations, but the time to act is now. This is a chance to build on Ember Recovery Campus and make Ames a leader in recovery.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working together.

AA

**ANDREW ALLEN / PRESIDENT & CEO / '95 YSS ALUMNUS**

YSS HEADQUARTERS / 420 KELLOGG AVENUE, AMES, IA 50010

**P:** 515.233.3141 / **C:** 515-291-5684 / **W:** [www.yss.org](http://www.yss.org)

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## Hall, Renee

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**From:** Hall, Renee  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 8:33 AM  
**To:** Hall, Renee  
**Subject:** FW: City parking concerns

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Anderson <emilyanderson4412@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 2:01 PM  
To: City Council and Mayor <mayorcouncil@amescitycouncil.org>  
Subject: City parking concerns

[External Email]

The city of Ames,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out regarding an ongoing parking issue on N Riverside Drive that has been affecting both my household and our neighbors. For the past few months, a particular vehicle has been taking advantage of the city's parking regulations by moving a foot or so every 48 hours to avoid citation, effectively using our residential street as free long-term parking. This has caused multiple inconveniences, including blocking areas needed for delivery trucks to back into driveways and limiting parking for actual residents. It is clear that this vehicle belongs to a student who likely lives on campus but has opted not to purchase a university parking permit, instead using the public street for extended parking without consequence. As homeowners, we are required to purchase parking permits to comply with city regulations, yet we continue to deal with this situation with no resolution. I wanted to bring this to your attention and inquire about potential solutions. Specifically, I would like to:

1. Request enforcement of existing parking regulations, particularly for individuals circumventing the 48-hour parking rule.
2. Understand what actions can be taken to prevent this type of abuse, such as increased monitoring or ticketing for vehicles engaging in minimal movement just to reset the time limit.
3. Explore the possibility of implementing resident-only parking or signage to help ensure that those who live on our street have priority for parking access.

I appreciate your time and consideration in addressing this matter. Please let me know if there are any steps we can take as residents to help enforce parking regulations or assist in implementing a solution. Looking forward to your response.

Best regards,

Emily Berg

108 n. Riverside drive Ames Iowa

(952)992-0520