



## Lake County Housing Authority (LCHA) Plans to Relocate 14 Chronically Homeless With Severe Mental Illness From Their Current Home In North Chicago to Midlothian Manor, a Residentially-Zoned Facility Located in Unincorporated Lake County.

### The beginning

In early 2015, several Lake Zurich residents formed Residents for an Engaged Community (REC) to ensure that the proposed use of the Midlothian Manor site was consistent with zoning laws. REC feels strongly that the use is not in alignment with zoning laws and that it would place a great burden on the residential community's infrastructure; and fail to serve the very needs of the proposed residents themselves.

**In R-1 Zoning:**  
  
**Group Living**  
is not allowed  
  
**Government Use**  
is allowed  
with operating  
hours of 8am -  
8pm

### The first appeal

The residents filed an administrative appeal against LCHA's plans which resulted in a public hearing with the Lake County Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). After 15 hours of testimony beginning on May 12, 2015, three public hearings, and hundreds of pages of exhibits, the ZBA voted in the residents' favor 5-1, agreeing that the intended use was not in alignment with zoning laws. ([REC's Position](#)) ([Appeal Transcripts](#))

### Lake County's reaction

In July 2015, The LCHA filed a complaint in the Lake County Circuit Court requesting a review of the original hearing. On November 8, 2016, a Lake County judge (Schippers) reversed the original decision made by the ZBA. ([Judge Schipper's Ruling](#))

### The reversal's impact

This reversal gives the LCHA the ability to lease Midlothian Manor to PADS' Safe Haven Program once an occupancy permit is obtained. We continue to stand firm that the proposed "use" is an abuse of power by bypassing zoning law, agency and public processes that put both the occupants of the building and the surrounding residents at risk. The facility also violates multiple building codes such as fire and plumbing, resulting in additional health and safety risks. ([Building Code Violations - County Notification](#))

### The current state-level appeal

In January 2017, REC filed an appeal with the Illinois Appellate Court and a Motion to Stay with the County Circuit Court, representing the only chance to permanently prevent the misuse of Midlothian Manor by taking the decision outside of Lake County. In March, Judge Schippers denied the Motion to Stay resulting in the need to file the same motion at the state appellate level. As of March 2017, the appeal hearing is tentatively scheduled to take place in April.

### Community involvement

Thanks to many dedicated residents and local business owners who have volunteered their time and services to keep this effort moving forward, including the generous donations of more than \$85,000 to fund the effort to date. We need additional funding to see us through the appellate process to cover legal and processing fees.

Please donate today: <https://www.gofundme.com/midlothian-manor-appeals-process>

