



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Office of Legal Affairs

HEIDI E. WASHINGTON
DIRECTOR

February 2, 2023

Attn: Pittsfield Township Planning Commission
Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

RE: Reed Industrial Rezoning, RZ #22-01

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to notify the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission that the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility (WHV) and the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) formally objects to the major amendment request to the existing-approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow additional uses and modify the layout of the site at the property located on the northwest corner of Bemis Road and US-23, Ypsilanti, Michigan, also known as tax parcel L-12-35-400-002, in Section 35, Pittsfield Charter Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

WHV is a facility that serves as the only prison in Michigan that houses females. The facility provides all reception center processing, which includes twenty-four housing units for general population prisoners in level I, II, and IV, Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI), Residential Treatment Program (RTP), Acute Care, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Infirmary, and Restricted Housing. In other words, WHV acts as an entire prison system on a single piece of property.

MDOC Administrators, including WHV Warden Jeremy Howard, have been approached several times about development of land directly adjacent to WHV, including a request to rezone the land for additional permissible uses and to modify the layout. The land is currently subject to a 2000 court-approved consent judgment that limits the use of the land as laid out in the approved PUD. The current applicant has requested to add several permitted and conditional uses to modify the consent judgment, as well as to change the court-approved land layout. These changes would allow for, among other things, public self-storage facilities and recreational vehicle storage to be developed, and for the roadway to be move to the western property line within 20 feet of the existing perimeter prison fence.


MDOC does not currently have another facility in the state that has similar developments and publicly accessible roads within the same proximity as is being requested here. We have serious concerns about the increase of flow into the area of the facility, particularly as our system is seeing an increase in contraband introduction by individuals manually throwing items over the fence. In addition to these safety and security concerns, the

proposal could make the facility vulnerable to potential escape opportunities and endanger the public safety for the residents in this community.

The State of Michigan owned this land for many years before the 2000 consent judgment was entered, so it is hard to imagine these concerns were not already considered by the court when the existing PUD received court approval in 2000. For these reasons, we strongly oppose the proposed amendments being considered today and respectfully request the Pittsfield Township Planning Commission recommend denial of the application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JW' followed by a horizontal line.

Jared Warner, Administrator
Office of Legal Affairs
Michigan Department of Corrections
Warnerj8@michigan.gov

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jeremy Howard' in a cursive style.

Jeremy Howard, Warden
Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Michigan Department of Corrections
HowardJ15@michigan.gov