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The City of Overland Park is aware of an Artists Helping the Homeless plan to use the property at 9119 W. 113th St. as a respite home with the goal of helping residents reintegrate into a sober lifestyle.

Staff, including representatives from the Planning and Development Services Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Law Department and City Manager's Office met this week with Kar Woo, the owner of the property, to learn more about what is planned.

During this meeting, Mr. Woo shared that:

- Mr. Woo expects there will be eight residents in total at the home at any time.
- Artists Helping the Homeless interviews and screens referred clients recovering from substance abuse.
- Mr. Woo personally meets and screens clients before they move into a respite home.
- Artists Helping the Homeless does not accept registered sex offenders or violent offenders.
- Similar Artists Helping the Homeless homes require residents to remain sober and perform random drug testing to confirm this status.
- Similar Artists Helping the Homeless homes are staffed on-site, 24 hours a day, by peer support specialists.
- Similar Artists Helping the Homeless homes provide basic needs to residents free of charge: food, clothing, transportation, personal hygiene items and medication.
- Artists Helping the Homeless arranges for residents professional counseling and medical and dental care.
- Most residents do not bring vehicles with them.
- Residents typically stay in similar Artists Helping the Homeless homes between 30 days and nine months.
- Recently completed renovations to 9119 W. 113th St. are cosmetic in nature and did not require building permits.

City staff learned that Mr. Woo intends to meet with the Shannon Valley Homes Association later this month to share more information on the project.

City staff are now analyzing this information and working to determine next steps. When that analysis is complete, staff will provide an update to the homes association leadership for dissemination.

Jack D. Messer,
Director of Planning and Development Services