



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

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August 23, 2019

The Honorable Linda Stewart
The Florida Senate
1726 South Bumby Ave.
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Senator Stewart:

I wanted to inform you of a development involving efforts by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement to shelter unaccompanied children in Orange County.

Two weeks ago, I was forwarded a letter by our local legislative delegation from HHS about the agency's plans to explore potential sites for an Unaccompanied Alien Children Shelter in Central Florida. At that time, Orange County had not received any inquiries. This week, the County did receive an inquiry from the General Services Administration (GSA) for the property at 1850 W. Landstreet Rd., Orlando, FL 32809. This property is currently zoned C-1, commercial. Without an exception, this use is not permitted.

Attached you will find two documents sent to the County as part of the inquiry, which detail the potential use for the facility. I have also attached the initial letter from HHS.

Assuming the use is not exempt from the County's zoning regulations, the proposed shelter would likely be classified as a Residential Care Facility, which would require a special use permit in the C-1 zoning district. The process involves a public hearing before the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

c: Orange County Board of County Commissioners
Byron Brooks, County Administrator
Roseann Harrington, Chief of Staff
Danny Banks, Deputy County Administrator
Chris Testerman, Deputy County Administrator
Kelley Teague, Legislative Affairs Director