

VILLAGE OF HOWARD
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE APPEALS BOARD MEETING
6:00 p.m. April 13, 2022
Village Hall Board Room

CALL TO ORDER

M. Erickson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members: Acting Chair Marc Erickson, Sheila Kulow, Tod Kulow

Excused: Don Adler, Michele Swaer

Also Present: Village Attorney Bob Gagan, Deputy Brandon Dhuey, Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESIDENCY APPEAL FROM LOREN A. CHRISTENSEN TO RESIDE AT 2539D TELLURIDE TRAIL

M. Erickson read the opening statement. The board questioned Mr. Christensen about the unit in which he wishes to reside, his current living arrangement, and his offense and conviction. Other discussion included his work history and experience, health issues, and future plans.

Brown County Deputy Brandon Dhuey, a directed enforcement officer for the Village of Howard, explained Mr. Christensen's criminal conviction for possession of child pornography. He summarized the proximity of the residence to bus stops, schools, parks, and the Mountain Bay Trail. He then reviewed Mr. Christensen's application, the attached letter from his mother, and the case that went to the Court of Appeals, which included evidence of the number and type of images found on his computer. The board questioned Deputy Dhuey.

Mr. Christensen then read a statement. He said he has lived in the Village of Howard his entire life and served on the Howard Fire Department, and he wishes to return to the community in which he grew up. He said he has never physically hurt anyone and would never harm anyone in the future.

Mary Ann Wiegand, 2575 Telluride Trail, spoke against the residency application. She said the community is very congested, and children of all ages play in the neighborhood. She said the number of images found on Mr. Christensen's computer and the denial of his mother as to the seriousness of the crime are concerning to her.

Rachelle Paulsen, 3707 Mighty Oak Trail, spoke against the residency application. She said she does not support an appeal for this situation.

Anne Anderson, 2551 Telluride Trail, said many of the residents in the neighborhood oppose the residency application. She said she is concerned because Mr. Christensen's mother lives in another state for half the year, and he will be unsupervised when she is gone.

Joy Farrell, 1562 Alamosa Trail, spoke against the residency application. She said she is concerned that Mr. Christensen does not think there are victims of his crime because children are the victims in matters of child pornography. She also said child pornography is an addiction, and she worries he will reoffend.

Carol Ploetz, 2551 Telluride Trail, and Robin Perleberg, 2579 Telluride Trail, representatives of two of the condominium associations, spoke against the residency application. They said most of the condominium residents oppose the application.

Josiah Stein, 850 Meadowbrook Drive, spoke against the residency application. He said Mr. Christensen minimized his offenses in his application, and Deputy Dhuey's report is a more accurate statement to consider.

Linda Stuckart, 2539 Telluride Trail said she lives in the same building as where Mr. Christensen wishes to reside. She said she has a woman with a young child who stays in her home when she goes on vacation, and she fears that woman will not want to do that if she knows a sex offender is living in the building. She also said Mr. Christensen's mother does not live in the home full time, and she worries about him living there when she is gone.

S. Kulow moved to disapprove (deny) Loren A. Christensen's request to reside in the Village of Howard. T. Kulow seconded. **The motion to deny carried unanimously.**

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2021 SORAB MEETING

S. Kulow moved to approve the minutes from the SORAB meeting of May 18, 2021. M. Erickson seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.**

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

S. Kulow requested a future agenda item to discuss the village's process to notice a SORAB meeting and resulting action.

ADJOURN

S. Kulow moved to adjourn. T. Kulow seconded. **The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**

Leigh Ann Wagner Kroening
Administrative Assistant