



Exodos *Recovery Ministry*
P. O. Box 1710, Crestview, FL 32536
850-398-2910 / 850-902-1787

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As most of you are aware, we have adversaries in the Baker community who have been very vocal to the media. We have remained quiet and not become defensive, resolved to maintain a Christ-like attitude. The Board of Directors had previously met with Nathan Boyles, Baker district County commissioner, and he agreed to mediate a community meeting where we could present to the community what our program is about and what we do. Unfortunately, Mr. Boyles changed the tenor of the meeting and turned it into a growth management presentation, advising the adversaries that our proposed facility does not meet the county comprehensive plan guidelines, but he did not address what would. We have not submitted a development plan as yet but had been assured verbally by growth management that what we were proposing would comply with code. On that basis we had met with the engineers and were proceeding. We are now regrouping and researching how best to submit our development plan and the proper category to use in our application as we are a ministry not a boarding house. We have three Christian lawyers who are offering their assistance (pro-bono) to insure that we are aware of, and follow all, the proper codes and legal guidelines required.

Of the 150 plus attendees present approximately 20 were in opposition, representing about 7 Buck Ward families. However, there were 17 Buck Ward families present who expressed support for our presence on the road. The public comment time resulted in primarily emotional reactions. Items of material fact could have been answered but speakers were limited to 3 minutes, us included. A few of the misconceptions: "Men were wandering all up and down the road at the last site." Some of our men were allowed to go for walks for exercise. No one stole from any one or damaged anyone's property. We encourage our opposition to verify that with local authorities. The 20 acres will allow us an area where our guests can exercise on site. An opponent slandered that, "Exodos men had worked for him and stolen." Our men are ONLY allowed to work for approved Christian businesses while with us. The accusing man is NOT one of our business partners. If someone stole from him, they were NOT residing with us at the time. One said, "It is dangerous to have addicts in the neighborhood" Our guests are supervised and desiring change. We invite our opponents to visit FDLE and OCCOC. There are addicts in all neighborhoods. That was about the worst of what they had to say. Their biggest, most repeated comment was, "We believe in what you are doing and think it's great, just not in our neighborhood."

Please continue to pray for us as we move forward doing what we believe God has called us to do in a location He has called us to. We appreciate your love and support.

We are very appreciative of all those who were able to attend the meeting and all those who spoke out in support. To God be the Glory, Great things HE will do. If God is for us, who can be against us?

[Genesis 50:20](#) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. "
