Informational Release

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Agreement Mandates Tenant Screening at Previously Proposed Halfway House Site

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 17, 2014

In 2012, plans to establish a "Halfway House" for sex offenders on Shaw Road raised concerns in the surrounding neighborhood. Following public hearings, the City of Puyallup passed an ordinance that does not allow more than one felon to be housed in properties located in residential zones. The property owner of the Shaw Road site has signed a covenant (a binding legal contract) that specifies that compliance with the ordinance will be maintained and that background checks will be performed on all residents/renters on the property. The covenant also provides the city with the ability to review the criminal history of residents and ensure that the requirements are being met. The covenant will be recorded with the Pierce County Auditor's Office

With the covenant in place, the stop work order for the Shaw Road Property will be lifted. Under the standard development process, new permits may be issued and work is likely to resume. The property owner is working with Development Services to secure necessary permits and work will be inspected according to City practices. When work on the property is complete, maximum occupancy of the property will be limited to six unrelated individuals according to existing city land use regulations.

As passed by Council in 2013, the Puyallup Municipal Code continues to prohibit two or more sex offenders from living in the same residence in any residential zone in the City.

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