

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
APRIL 21, 2026 AGENDA**

<p>Subject:</p> <p>An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Article II, Division 1, § 36-54(e)(4) of the Little Rock Revised Code of Ordinances (1988) to Address the Acceptance for Residency of Registered Sex Offenders in Group Homes.</p> <p>Submitted By: City Attorney's Office</p>	<p>Action Required:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">√ Ordinance Resolution</p>	<p>Approved By:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Delphone Hubbard City Manager</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">SYNOPSIS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FISCAL IMPACT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BACKGROUND</p>	<p>The proposed ordinance amends existing provisions governing special use permits for group homes and similar residential facilities by establishing additional reporting, monitoring, and compliance requirements when such facilities house individuals required to register as sex offenders under Arkansas law. The amendment is intended to enhance transparency, ensure regulatory oversight, and promote the health, safety, and welfare of surrounding neighborhoods while maintaining compliance with applicable state and federal regulations.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Pass the Ordinance.</p> <p>On September 6, 2005, the Board of Directors adopted Ordinance No. 19,395, which established regulatory standards for group homes and similar residential facilities within the City of Little Rock. These regulations included requirements related to spacing, permitting, and operational oversight to ensure compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods.</p> <p>Since that time, increased attention has been given at both the state and local levels to the management and</p>
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**BACKGROUND
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supervision of individuals required to register as sex offenders. The State of Arkansas has recognized that such individuals may pose an elevated risk of reoffending and has identified the protection of public safety as a primary governmental interest.

The current code does not fully address specific procedures for tracking and evaluating the placement of registered sex offenders within group homes regulated by the City. The proposed amendment introduces requirements for disclosure of residency, offense classification, and registration level at the time of application and during ongoing operations. It also establishes mandatory updates when residency status changes and provides enforcement mechanisms, including potential revocation of permits for noncompliance.

Additionally, the amendment clarifies that individuals whose residency is restricted under state law may not be housed in such facilities unless it can be demonstrated that their presence does not pose a “direct threat” to the health or safety of others, consistent with federal regulatory standards.

These changes are intended to strengthen the City’s ability to monitor group home operations, provide greater transparency for decision-makers, and ensure that such facilities operate in a manner that protects both residents and the broader community while respecting applicable legal protections.