

**Public Comment – 215 Harrison Street – Behavioral Health**

Good Evening Craig:

I am writing a personal note on behalf Mosaic Counseling and Wellness in support of their application for a counseling center in the Arts District. I have worked with Carey Carlock for almost 10 years now and I can tell you she is uniquely qualified to successfully open and run a wellness site that works with children and families that have been exposed to trauma and other mental health disorders. She will provide highly professional and desperately needed mental health and psychiatry services that are truly a gap in our community, especially access to psychiatry. Increased access to specialized services, especially post-Covid when mental health conditions are at an all-time high, will truly be a benefit to this community.

Again, I cannot stress enough how excited I will be to see this needed addition to Oak Park. Please contact me if you need anything else.

Thanks again,

*Lisa DeNunzio-DeVivo*

Executive Director  
1011 Lake Street Suite 307  
Oak Park, IL 60301  
708-358-8855 (phone)  
708-358-8866 (fax)  
708-446-1198 (cell)

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Docket # PC-21.04 21-05

I would like to endorse the request by Jefferey Bergren for a text amendment to Article 8 of the Zoning Ordinance to add "Outpatient Behavioral Health" as a permitted Special Use for 213-215 Harrison Street. I live at 145 Harrison.

The building in question has been vacant and deteriorating for 36 years. With the growing cohort of health and wellness-related businesses on Harrison, I think this will complement the others in the Arts District while injecting much-needed investment into the last substandard building in the area.

Mark Finger

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Good morning Craig,

I have read through the application that Mosaic Counseling and Wellness LLC have submitted for your consideration. Additionally, I have met with Carey Carlock to discuss the proposal at length.

I have lived, worked and operated a business in the Arts District for 30 years. The building at 213-215 Harrison has been vacant for approximately 50 years. As the owner of an arts related business, I am encouraged that Mosaic will have programming that can tie into the District and moreover, I would be thrilled to have this long-vacant eyesore of a building (located directly behind Buzz Cafe) renovated and occupied. The ownership also has ties to Oak Park as a resident.

I do not have any issue with this application being approved.

If you have any further questions for me, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thanks, Laura



Laura Maychruk  
Buzz Café, Owner  
708-205-7044  
[www.thebuzzcafe.com](http://www.thebuzzcafe.com)

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Craig,

As a neighbor and a significant stakeholder on Harrison Street, we support the petition for a Special Use Permit submitted by Mosaic Counseling and Wellness.

We believe the community could really benefit for their services and believe they would be a great addition to the neighborhood.

Regards,

Mona Navitsky  
Harrison Street Ventures

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To whom it may concern:

My name is Christa Desir and I am an author, editor, and advocate who has lived in south Oak Park for nineteen years. I am also a mother of three, who have all been through or are currently going through the Oak Park school system.

I am writing on behalf of Mosaic Counseling and Wellness, a new business applying for a special permit for zoning in the Arts District. I cannot state emphatically enough how desperately I think we need more businesses like this in Oak Park. The mental health situation in this country is a national crisis, and I have personally been impacted by a lack of access to mental health services both for myself and two of my children.

A little over five years ago, my eldest daughter was diagnosed with a very serious eating disorder. I immediately reached out to Carey Carlock in desperation because I didn't know where to go for help. Not only did she help me secure multiple services of therapists over the five years that my daughter struggled with this, but she also helped facilitate us finding an intensive outpatient hospital program when things were very dire with my daughter.

Similarly, when my son was struggling as a biracial child during the George Floyd murder and beyond, I reached out to Carey for support and help finding a counselor who could talk to teen boys. She has been a godsend for my family, and that has reached beyond me as several parents in the community have asked me for recommendations for therapy/counseling for their own children, and I have used the resources Carey provided.

The network of parents who are left to rely on each other to help "figure out" access to help their struggling children is enormous. We desperately need more counseling services like Mosaic, particularly in south Oak Park. (A small example here: due to my work situation, my 15yo son had to go see his therapist on his own during the summer, and as a Black boy who was terrified of walking outside for fear he'd be shot, we were so incredibly grateful for his counselor's willingness to meet him at Fox Park--less than 5 minutes from our house--during the pandemic to have their sessions there. That counselor came from Carey's recommendation.)

I'm sure you know how desperately Oak Park needs more accessible mental health care, but I'd like you to consider how important it is to truly serve the whole community and what it means for a place like this to be in the Arts District. For someone like my son, a reluctant teen boy who had never been to therapy but who desperately needed someone to talk to, Mosaic would have been an approachable and non-intimidating option. I hope you thoughtfully consider those who really need this service and how to create equity in access.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Christa Desir

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Dear Mr. Failor,

I am writing to you in an effort to consider allowing Mosaic Counseling & Wellness to reside in the Harrison Arts District.

My name is Jennifer McNulty, artist & owner of Jen McNulty Fine Arts, and a professional artist living and working in Oak Park for the past 15 years. I was on the Board of Directors of the Oak Park Art League for 6 years, Board President for 3 years, organized every fundraising initiative for those 6 years and am currently exhibiting there regularly and support their fundraising endeavors & community outreach. I am actively involved in the arts community in Oak Park and surrounding areas, working with various local businesses to encourage them to hang the work of local artists. In addition, I have a relationship with artists who are involved or own businesses in the Harrison Arts District, including Pam Penney, textile artist, Janice Elkins, artist & owner of Gallery Pink, and Bobby Raymond, artist & printmaker who was very involved with Expressions Graphics.

I feel that the Harrison Street Arts District in Oak Park would greatly benefit from a locally-owned business such as Mosaic Counseling & Wellness. This business would bring a much-needed community wellness presence to south Oak Park. And a counseling service with a holistic approach is something that would be appreciated and embraced by this arts community. Carey Carlock, owner and founder of Mosaic Counseling & Wellness, would not only provide quality care but it would be from a community advocate and long-time Oak Park resident who is a loyal supporter of the Arts. I have known Carey for many years and she has consistently and enthusiastically supported the arts in our community by not only buying & showcasing local artist's works in her home and business, but by being present and involved at community arts events. Carey has also not only attended every OPAL annual fundraiser that she was invited, but she was a member of the fundraising task force for several events as well as garnered support by encouraging other community members, leaders, business owners and friends to attend and support the arts.

I honestly can't think of a better fit for the space that is desperate for a tenant like Mosaic Counseling & Wellness that will bring a culture of positivity, healing & respect for the neighbors as well as surrounding businesses.

If you need to contact me for any additional details or comments, you can contact me at any time at 773-879-6890.

My best,  
Jennifer McNulty

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Good morning Craig,

I am writing in support of a request that has been made to house Mosaic Counseling and Wellness in the arts District of Oak Park.

My name is Jamie Sloan and I am a long-time Oak Park resident/wife/parent, and teacher at Alcuin Montessori School. In each of these roles I have come to see the value and often desperate need for mental health services within our community. Beyond basic service availability, there is a critical need for thoughtful, professional matching of clients and therapists. Unfortunately, this need has only grown during covid. I have personally witnessed an exponential growth in need within our immediate community. Sadly, too often conversations drift to discussions about the lack of availability and/or lengthy waiting periods that currently permeate the mental health industry.

I and my family have been direct recipients of the very services that Mosaic Counseling and Wellness seek to provide. Carey Carlock is a deeply qualified and well-connected friend to whom I have turned during times of personal family crisis. Her life-long commitment to mental health remains at the forefront of her waking (and I suspect sleeping) hours and the deep commitment that Carey and her colleagues have to making well informed client/therapist matches is truly critical to the success of any treatment.

Honestly, this proposed service could not come to our community at a better time.

The arts district location that Mosaic Counseling has chosen couldn't be more appropriate for the services they wish to provide. Quite often, and particularly for many of the students I have known, including my own daughter, art therapy is paramount to the healing process. Art and healing obviously compliment one another, and the mental and physical atmosphere of creativity and beauty present in the Harrison Street arts district will certainly support the therapeutic process, as well as provide a mutually supportive boost to the business community.

So, it is the intention of this message to urge the governing body responsible for approving the union of Mosaic Counseling and the Oak Park arts district, to do so with confidence that both will benefit greatly from this decision.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require more encouragement!

With respect,

Jamie Sloan

1101 Fair Oaks Ave

Oak Park, IL 70302

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in behalf of Mosaic Counseling and Wellness and voicing my support for this business to be within the Arts District of Oak Park. I have spoken with Carey on multiple occasions and I feel as if she would be a great community advocate for mental health being delivered in a timely manner while also

being culturally appropriate. This is something that we are missing in this part of the community and, given our current situation, feel as if it would be extremely beneficial.

Again, I am in full support of Mosaic Counseling and Wellness becoming a part of the OP Arts District. And, as an OPAD board member, have not heard any resistance from the other board members about this business being a part of our community.

Please feel free to reach out with any further questions,

Caty

Caty Stegemann, PT

Owner/PT

Centre Physical Therapy

207 Harrison, Oak Park

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April, 26th, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to fully endorse the zoning adjustments for Mosaic Counseling and Wellness, LLC to be located at 213-215 Harrison Street in the Arts District. As a resident of Harrison Street I have seen this building be vacant and learned recently it has remained so for many years. It has been heartening to see more businesses establish themselves along this strip. I have witnessed how this has revitalized the area since I moved here in 2018. While I am aware of several businesses that have closed prior to and during the pandemic, I believe that this new development will support the businesses currently operating in the area.

Most importantly as a practicing licensed therapist and Board Certified Dance/Movement Therapist I am keenly aware of the continued need for trauma informed outpatient therapy options across all communities. I was formerly employed at Riveredge Hospital where Carey Carlock served as Chief Operating Officer. I can whole-heartedly state that her commitment to supporting the Creative Arts Therapies was pivotal to my tenure at Riveredge where I worked for 10 years. I coordinated the Creative Arts Therapy Department which was well respected across all teams and throughout the community at-large, much of this was due to the way in which Carey Carlock values and centers the creative and healing arts as a part of an interdisciplinary treatment philosophy. I trust her commitment to a creative arts therapy presence at Mosaic Counseling and Wellness which will keep the spirit of the arts district alive.

This project has my complete and total support as a member of the community and mental health practitioner.

Sincerely,

Kyla Marie Gilmore  
12 Harrison St. Apt 1  
Oak Park, IL 60304  
Phone 312-925-8257

May 4, 2021



Mr. Craig Failor, Village Planner  
Village of Oak Park  
123 Madison Street  
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear Mr. Failor:

On behalf of the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to support the application by *Mosaic Counseling and Wellness* as they apply for a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment and Special Use Permit for the property at 213-215 Harrison Street in Oak Park.

The Arts District in Oak Park was for many years an area where commercial buildings were empty and building owners struggled to find commercial tenants. Having worked closely with the local Business District, I have heard first hand how difficult it has been to attract and retain quality businesses who not only want to thrive in this location, but who are also committed to the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole.

Although the Arts District now is very different than it was five years ago (or even a few years ago!), there are still commercial locations that remain empty. Continued vacancies of highly visible locations, like that located at 213-215 Harrison Street makes it difficult for those businesses who are already established to thrive.

*Mosaic Counseling and Wellness* would be a welcome addition to the main street of this District. The building located at 213-215 Harrison Street has been empty for many years and is a clear gap in the District's streetscape. As a "destination" business, Mosaic will attract local and repeat customers to the area which will benefit the diverse range of businesses in the area by bringing in people from around the community to this vibrant neighbourhood.

Finally, their commitment to having art therapy, dance movement therapy and improv as an integral part of their services clearly fits with the ethos of this neighbourhood which is already home to an established theatre, artist studios and dance schools.

We urge you to support their applications for a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment and Special Use Permit and welcome them to this vibrant neighbourhood and to our wonderful community.

Your favorable consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Holt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" and last name "Holt" clearly distinguishable.

Liz Holt, Executive Director  
cc: Ms. Carey Carlock





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To Whom it May Concern,

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

This letter is in support of Mosaic Counseling and Wellness Center at the proposed site of 213- 215 Harrison Street, Oak Park, IL 60302

As the Executive Director of NAMI, (National Alliance of Mental Illness) in Oak Park, I see the need to increase our mental health services in the area especially as a result of the pandemic and social unrest in our community. Families and youth are especially in need of easily accessible, community-based mental health services located in our neighborhoods. Research shows that having mental health services in medium-high-traffic areas decreases mental health stigma, paving the way for more people reaching out for help to improve their lives. This is a critical and vital need in the area.

I have personally known the co-owner for eight years. This individual is a trusted mental health professional and an active leader in the OPRF District 200 Mental Health Collaborative, Oak Park Chamber of Commerce, NAMI Metro Suburban and other community-based organizations. People gravitate to her when their child, love-one or neighbor needs first-time mental health supports. This person is a trusted community-builder, navigator of mental health services, mother of school aged children and cherished member of the community that people turn to when they need help. She deeply cares about her neighbors and community.

As a mental health professional, she subscribes to using creative art therapies (Music, dance, and art) with her patients. She creates warm and inviting spaces that do not have a clinical feel. I'm confident that Mosaic's creative therapeutic approach and non-clinical aesthetic will align and enhance Oak Park's Arts District.

I strongly support Mosaic Counseling and Wellness, LLC opening at 213- 215 Harrison. I would be please to answer any questions or support this vital community opportunity going forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Kimberly Knake

Executive Director  
NAMI Metro Suburban

*NAMI's Mission*

*To improve the lives of individuals, families and communities affected by mental illness by providing education, supports and advocacy in the west suburbs of Cook County.*



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Oak Park, IL 60302  
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May 4, 2021

Craig Failor  
Village Planner, Village of Oak Park  
123 Madison St.  
Oak Park, IL 60302

*Delivered via email:*  
[planning@oak-park.us](mailto:planning@oak-park.us)

Re: Mosaic Counseling and Wellness, LLC

Dear Mr. Failor:

I am writing to express our support for Mosaic Counseling and Wellness, LLC's application for a Special Use Permit to operate an outpatient behavioral health clinic at 213 - 215 Harrison St. in the Arts District in Oak Park. I am confident that there is demand for this kind of business in the community and that Mosaic's management team is well-poised to be successful in this space. Moreover, the team has deep roots in Oak Park and understands and respects the culture and expectations of both the Arts District and the community as a whole.

As the representative of the owners of the "Flex House" properties directly across the street from the proposed clinic, we welcome Mosaic as neighbors. We expect that the business will enhance the vibrancy of the District and of Harrison Street, generating positive foot traffic for local businesses without compromising parking. We wholeheartedly endorse the applicant's request for a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Village Board.

Yours,

Cathy Yen  
Manager, Dath Ventures 202 LLC  
DBA FlexHouse Properties  
EIN: 82-5299570  
708.205.4766



Donna A. Peel  
520 Fair Oaks  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302  
[Donna.peel20@gmail.com](mailto:Donna.peel20@gmail.com)

April 28, 2021

Craig Failor Village Planner  
[Planning@oak-park.us](mailto:Planning@oak-park.us)  
Via Email

Re: Special Use Permit Application for Mosaic Counseling & Wellness

Dear Mr. Failor:

I am writing in support of a special-use zoning permit for Mosaic Counseling & Wellness ("Mosaic") in the Harrison Street Arts District ("HS"). I have lived in Oak Park for over 20 years, founded Pro Bono Network ("PBN") (a legal aid nonprofit), and have personally experienced the Village's lack of access to mental health services. I know Carey Carlock (the driving force behind Mosaic) both professionally and personally and believe that Mosaic will provide a unique addition to HS, one that will provide vitality along with desperately needed services.

Throughout her career as CEO Riveredge Hospital, a local psychiatric hospital, Ms. Carlock has been a committed community advocate for mental health in Oak Park. Her efforts include frequent community meetings with a variety of stakeholders (e.g., law enforcement, nonprofits, legal aid, etc.), activities to form inter-agency connections, and ongoing work with Oak Park's National Alliance for Mental Illness branch. I have observed Ms. Carlock as having extraordinary sensitivity to mental health issues as it pertains to different cultures and her demands for quality and dignity for all patients. For example, when Ms. Carlock provided me with a tour of Riveredge, I noticed that she had installed art on every floor (which she had changed to wood from sterile tile). Ms. Carlock told me that providing art, whether it had to be painted or bolted to the wall, is an essential part of ensuring a patient's dignity during recovery. I have no doubt that this approach will continue with Mosaic, to the benefit of the HS and Oak Park community.

It is also essential to consider Mosaic's unique offerings and need in Oak Park. We simply do not have access to Mosaic's mental health care (along with corresponding art therapies). Personally, and with some frequency, I have tapped Ms. Carlock's knowledge for treatments and referrals on behalf of personal connections. Access to mental health for Oak Park residents is part of Oak Park's Comprehensive Plan<sup>1</sup>, yet, as a member of two support groups, I am hard

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<sup>1</sup> See, *Envision Oak Park*, 2014, Goal 9.3 (residents should have access to healthcare and its statement) and corresponding statement for "a high level of personal healthcare for Oak Park's diverse residents."

pressed to think of a parent or individual who has not had a stressful experience in piecing together that care which inevitably involves referrals to places north and west of us, adding to the chaos and stress of a suffering family life. Oak Park will be lucky to have someone of Ms. Carlock's caliber to guide them without need of a personal connection.

Finally, and somewhat obviously, Mosaic is proposing to take over a long-abandoned building and fill it with life, service, and an attractive exterior. I am a frequent visitor to HS, participate in its celebrations, and proudly sent around the NYT article recommending it as a place to go. I see Mosaic as a wonderful addition, one that will give clients and their caregivers time to enjoy HS's other amenities and, unlike a "mental/dental" facility, create a synergy with other vendors of art activities and works.

I wholeheartedly support Mosaic's application for a special use permit in HS.

Sincerely,

Donna Peel

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