bys home sues Hills over stop work order

second housing unit so it can investigate the assessment program after respents expressed concern about it Aug. 14.

are concerned with the safety whole community, and we are

"Ne are concerned with the safety of Es whole community, and we are safe occerned with any liability the citig may be havolved in," Mayor Texty Sever said. It sharming the contractural relationship," with the Deplartment of Social Services, which sends wards of the state there to livest meet or evaluation, and the Nejlonal Bank of Detroit, which appropried a 1 million mortgage loan formerowations, Piper said.

"SUD WAS notified, and they said to provide it out with the city." Piper said.

salk.

Increased staff and lighter security gave accompanied the new assessment program. There is a secure assument center. There are plans for increased security in the 22-boy treytment program housing unit, which will help curtail campus truangy, Griffin said.

The renovated first housing unit has had 20 assessment program boys singe July 26. Target date for open-

ing the renovated second unit, which would house 20 more assessment program boy, is Sept. 5. Each day work is delayed, Boys Republic loses \$3,700 — \$185 per boy per day, Piper said.

The city could face more than \$45,000 in damages by Aug. 20, when the city council reviews the assessment program with campus officials, the police and the public.

LAST WEEK, Griffin said the fa-cility receives \$170 per day (nearly \$64,000 annually) per boy in the as-sessment program and \$153.71 per day (nearly \$55,000) per boy in the treatment program. Figures include all operating costs, including pay-roll, food and utilities.

rol, food and utilities.

Building imprevements, such as adding security window screens, and adding security window screens, as a security window screens, as a security window screens, as a security of the security is partially security in the assessment program, Piper said.

"The renovation work and the new assessment program should be treated as two separate issues," she said.

EVEN WITH the new assessment program, the campus will house few-

er than the 65 boys allowed under its 1888 license.
Griffin has assured residents and eity officials the facility will continuous the same type of youngsters Boys Republic has historically served over the last 15 years — boys who require a moderate-secure facility and not maximum security.

The boys typically are first or second-time offenders who have stolen a car, broken into a house or committed a drug offense, Griffin said.

ANNETTE ABRAMS, director of the state Office of Children and

Youth Services, underscored that boys in either program don't pose a threat to the community, "We'd like to put the community's mind at rest."

Boys Republic's intent is to "pro-tect public safety" and to accept only boys who've committed proper-

ty crimes, not crimes against people, Abrams said.
Unlike treatment program boys, assessment program boys are locked in their rooms at night. They do not leave their secure dormitory during their 30-day stay. An 18-foot-high fence surrounds the baaketball court connected to the building.

Neighbors: Zone board should review program

By Noroon Flack stalf writer

Farmington Hills residents hope renovations and a new assessment program at Boys Republic will be reviewed by the Board of Zoning Appeals before the city council lifts a "stop work" order issued on Aug.

Appeals setter the city vocana "stop work" order issued on Aug.

14.
The city council denied a request
by Boya Republic on Aug. 21 to lift
the stop-work order.
"They represented who they
should have — the community," said
Massile Kurzeja, an Olde Town
Homeowners Association vice president. "Let them (Boya Republic)
prove that what they are doing is not
changing the use. Let them prove it

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to zoning (the board of zoning appeals)."

appeals)."

"I'M ECSTATICALLY excited that the council saw fit to do the right thing," said Floyd DuFresne, also an Olde frown vice president. "If this is a new use, they have to stop. This has to be evaluated by the conlig board."

Cily officials ordered renovation work to stop at the medium-security facility after neighbors expressed concern on Aug. 14 about the new assement program and about what spurred tighter security on campus. "If council litts the stop-work order so we can get going on the buildings, we will not move any assessment nad reception boys in (the see

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"NO ONE seems to know the whole story," Mayor Terry Sever asid. "We have kept the stop order in effect until we have a chance to review the whole program."

At a Dec. 13 meeting, Boys Republe officials presented preliminary renovation plans to city officials, but the assessment program was not discussed, said city planner Ed Gardiner.

Campus officials atress that Boys

Republic buildings will not be ex-panded and that fewer than the au-thorized 65 wards of the state will be

nouseo there.

Annette Abrams, state Office of Children and Youth Services director, said the state has no plans to ask Boys Republic to extend its contract to operate the assessment program beyond one year.

There's a shortage of beds for del-inquents, but there's "no likelihood of changing plans," Abrams said.

Gardiner approved planned renovations on Dec. 14, waiving a review of site plans by the zoning board.



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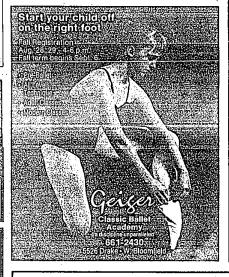
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