

Hills plans countersuit against Boys Republic

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"We don't have a problem with wayward boys or boys that need parenting, but when you stop parenting and start punishing, that's when you're at a security risk," Cohen said.

A PETITION signed by 237 concerned citizens was presented to the city council Monday protesting the operation of Boys Republic and the type of facility it has become.

"We are glad to see that they (council) have taken these steps and hired John Donohue," Cohen said. "We are leaving things in John's hands now, but we want them (council) to know that we aren't going to let it fall by the wayside. We are going to keep the pressure on."

On Aug. 15, Boys Republic filed a

lawsuit seeking roughly \$50,000 in alleged damages incurred from a two-week, stop-work order that cost the private, non-profit, social service agency \$3,700 per day. The city ordered the stop-work order on Aug. 14, said Karen Piper, Boys Republic attorney.

The lawsuit against the city is pending through a "year of discovery." Boys Republic attorneys have a year to review the case before action is taken in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The stop-work order was issued by the city to allow police and city officials to investigate campus security improvements and the new assessment program before more boys were placed at Boys Republic.

ON AUG. 29, Circuit Judge Jessica Cooper lifted the stop-work order

and said the city violated its own charter by waiving review of the renovations and the assessment program by the board of zoning appeals.

In a Sept. 4 letter to Sever, Carla Rosenblum, who is near Boys Republic, wrote: "I attended the Farmington Hills City Council meeting on Aug. 28 and it was with my dismay that I learned the continuation of Boys Republic was taken place with no review by the board of zoning appeals. How could such a major project be under way without the council being fully apprised of precise plans/use of the land, as zoning board approval?"

In December, a building permit was issued by planner Ed Gardner, allowing Boys Republic to begin security renovations. At the

time, the assessment program, which neighbors contend is an expanded use of the land, was not discussed; Gardner waived review of the changes by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Therefore, the building permit was issued in error, Donohue said.

The two-week work halt delayed completion of renovations and blocked the facility from accommodating 20 more boys at \$179 per day per boy to be placed by the state Department of Social Services in the assessment program's second housing unit, Boys Republic officials said.

IN THE assessment program, the DSS assigns wards of the state ages 12-17 to the medium-security facility for a four-week evaluation period

before they are placed in a long-term treatment program.

The 40 boys in the assessment program have committed the same types of crimes and are no more dangerous than the 22 boys in the treatment program. None of the boys is violent or a threat to the community, Boys Republic officials said.

Improved security, including doubling the staff size, is meant to decrease truancies and assure safer neighborhoods, Boys Republic officials said.

Renovations of the assessment program's two housing units include security window screens, bedroom door locks, an audio monitoring system and an 18-foot high fence to surround the basketball court connected to each unit. Renovations should be

complete by the end of October, facility officials said.

The treatment program's renovated housing unit will not include locked bedroom doors nor a fenced basketball court.

Concerned neighbors at Monday's council meeting hoped to expedite action again halting renovations and program changes, Cohen said.

Piper contacted him Sept. 8 and requested a meeting to discuss settlement, Donohue said.

"There are a lot of factual problems that have not yet been resolved," Donohue said. "We are always willing to discuss settlement but we have to file our complaint first and then we can sit down and see if there is some common ground that can be reached."

Piper had no comment Tuesday regarding the counter-complaint.

March organizers keep press from meeting

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and the U.S. Constitution, does not need a city permit to assemble and counter-demonstrate the peace march.

The march is scheduled to start at 5:07 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15. The march — along the sidewalks of Grand River from Mooney to Liberty — will culminate in a rally at the steps of the city hall until 6:07 p.m.

LAUHOFF ATTENDED Love Force United's meeting Monday to relay points of safety to the group of

8-10 supporters. Former group organizers Ted Clay and Gerry Milewski were not present, said Lauhoff, invited by Paul Blomquist, pastor at Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, site of the meeting.

"It was explained to me (by Success) that I was there to explain some safety concerns and then after that, I should leave, that it was a private meeting," said Lauhoff. "It's obvious, now, that this group that is going to be walking will primarily be a group outside this community."

Lauhoff added that he thought the

safety concerns tried to stress to Success fell on deaf ears, with no response. Success stood up at that time and told everyone, "We'll walk with Jesus and I will protect us," Lauhoff said.

Lauhoff said Success further responded by reciting Bible passages.

"Last night my concern was heightened," he said. "I have a very uneasy feeling about what this whole issue is about. I'll be prepared the best way we can. This isn't the way it started out. It started out to be racial hatred. Now it seems to be a contest."

LAUHOFF SAID he told Success, that if he wanted to make public statements about criminal acts in the city, he should come to the police and obtain the facts. Lauhoff asked Success to refrain from making inflammatory statements that cause "anti-groups" to become more involved, he said.

"We have many black families living in the community that we are aware of," Lauhoff said. "I have been here 15 years and I am not aware of a complaint concerning such an issue. This department is aware of none. Mr. Success has re-

ported two."

The Farmington public safety department, in planning for up to 1,000 marchers, will enlist the aid of the Michigan State Police, the Oakland County Sheriff and Farmington Hills Police.

"Vacations and leave days are canceled for that day for the 23 officers in this department," said Lauhoff. "We're going to have officers at different corners along the route and officers in the vicinity of the Nazi group, to make sure that they stay in the area we want them to stay in."

Lauhoff "appealed" to Success to know who is entering his group and not to allow just anyone to march.

"This is my concern," said Lauhoff. "People are coming from outside the area because they have heard that the Nazis will be there and they want to be there also. I don't see that as improving the community."

"I don't know of any other religious organization in the community that is supporting him," said Lauhoff. "And now, the neighbors have pulled away. This community does not deserve the things that are being said about it."

Love Force United leadership support waning

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"The issues on his agenda don't seem clear," said the Rev. James Greer, associate pastor at Orchard United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills.

"He's trying to deal with a Farmington issue and he has no support base. What needs to be clarified is the issues he wants to address. Personal agendas should be kept aside."

Success apparently called the church Monday afternoon, asking if Love Force United, his grass-roots coalition to racial harmony, could meet at the church, because an announcement of the meeting had been

advertised on WMUZ, a Christian broadcasting station.

Debbie Gordon, a Farmington Hills resident and Love Force United supporter, called the station after first getting approval from Success, she said.

Gordon, present at the meeting Monday, said she's trying to increase the local support base for Love Force United.

"Some people backed out because they are worried about the Nazis," said Gordon, a homemaker.

"Our main concern is that this is going to be just outsiders, and we want it to be a community action. This (calling) was just a

spur-of-the-moment thing to see how many supporters I can come up with in this area. I'm talking to everybody I personally know here."

SOME RESIDENTS are questioning Success' credibility, said Greer. Success was unavailable for comment Monday and Tuesday.

Gerry Milewski, a neighbor and group supporter, said she was pulling out as an organizer because of time constraints but still planned to march. "My husband and I fully support the Success family," she said Tuesday.

Lauhoff said Milewski and Ted Clay, also

a neighbor and supporter of Success, expressed concern on Monday about continuing in group leadership roles.

"I have resigned completely," said Clay on Tuesday.

On Monday, Clay said he was pulling out as an organizer but would still march. "I'm going to march with the group but I'm not going to organize the work. The route is pretty much all set except for last-minute details."

According to Clay, the march will likely take place on the sidewalks rather than on the street because time is running out on obtaining the \$1 million liability insurance re-

quired before the city will ask the Michigan Department of Transportation to issue a permit to close Grand River, a state highway, for a parade.

"It takes two weeks to get insurance and four weeks to go through the police and state highway department," said Clay. "There are two or three companies that underwrite parades."

About eight weeks ago, Clay became involved with the Love Force United group, he said.

Two years ago, when Success' house was spray-painted and defaced with obscenities, Clay aided Success' clean-up effort.

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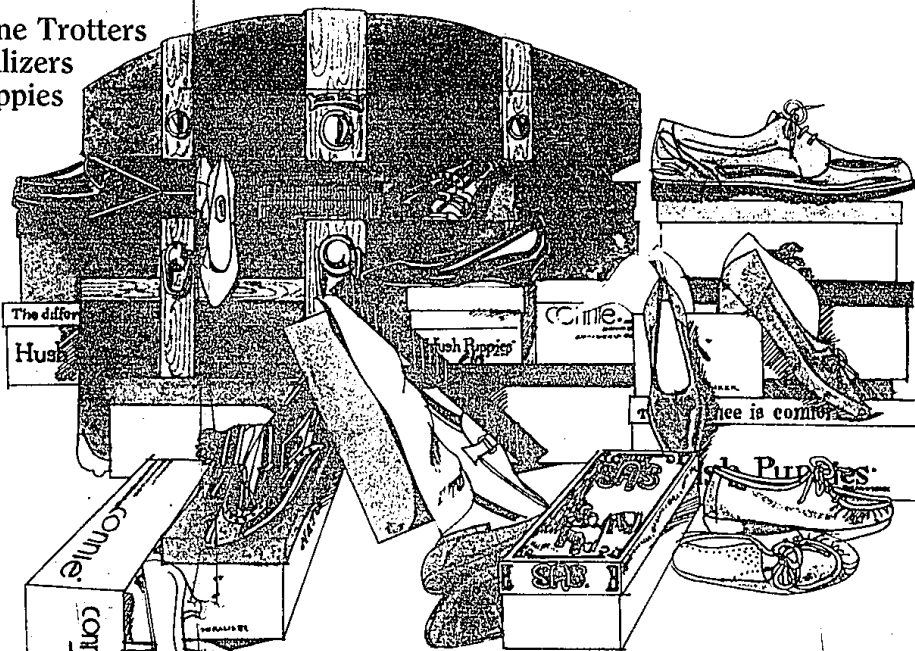
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