



January 4, 2023

Midland Planning Department
Midland City Council
333 W. Ellsworth St.
Midland, MI 48640

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Midland City Council and Midland Planning Department,

I am writing to support Midland's Open Door's application for a conditional use permit at 1610 W. Carpenter St.

Shelterhouse is a nonprofit organization committed to providing safety, shelter, advocacy, and counseling to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Midland and Gladwin counties. We have worked with the Midland's Open Door for several years and continue to strengthen our relationship to serve survivors in need of shelter.

Shelterhouse continues to rely on Midland's Open Door as an additional shelter resource in our community for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We consistently find ourselves at shelter capacity over 95% of each year. In the last fiscal year, Shelterhouse had to refer out over 650 individuals seeking refuge because our shelter was full, the majority of them women with young children. While Midland's Open Door provided assistance when they were able, far too often we had to continue our search (oftentimes out of county) because they too were at capacity or its women's shelter location was inaccessible due to transportation barriers. Relocating the shelter within the City of Midland would help provide essential services to historically underserved populations.

Midland's Open Door is an important resource for Shelterhouse and the Midland community and we support their application for a conditional use permit to move their Women's Shelter to 1610 W. Carpenter St.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Berry
Executive Director

Shelterhouse (Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)
2500 Waldo Ave. | Midland, MI 48642

Crisis Help Line: 877-216-6383 | Business: 989-835-6771 | Fax: 989-835-7449 info@shelterhousemidland.org | www.shelterhousemidland.org | [@shelterhousemidland](https://www.instagram.com/shelterhousemidland)