



NEWS RELEASE

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Planning Commission Seeks Public Input on Zoning Change for Temporary Medical Testing Facilities

The Vienna Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. tonight on a proposed Town Code zoning text amendment to allow temporary medical testing facilities to operate in certain sites, such as places of worship and schools. The hearing will take place in the Council Chambers at the Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center St., S.

The proposal comes in the wake of public concern over closing a temporary, drive-through COVID-19 testing site located at Emmaus United Church of Christ at 900 Maple Ave. The testing site at that location would normally not be permitted under the Town Code, and the Vienna Town Council authorized its operation under an emergency use provision at the height of the pandemic. The emergency use provision expired Dec. 31, which meant the site was no longer legally permitted to operate at that location. Town Manager Mercury Payton authorized a 30-day “wind-down” period that enabled the site to continue operating by appointment through January in response to surging cases of the virus’ Omicron variant.

The public may comment in person at the public hearing or by emailing the Planning Commission clerk, Jennifer Murphy, at jmurphy@viennava.gov. Email comments must be submitted by 6 p.m. tonight.

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