

# Delray denies outpatient center to operate as medical office



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**D**elray Beach commissioners won't allow some buildings belonging to an outpatient sober living facility to be used as medical offices, so the facility's operator says he'll have to relocate some services to another building he owns.

Currently, Sober Living Outpatient owns two buildings at the northwest corner of Southeast Fifth Avenue and Southeast Ninth Street.

It wasn't until George Jahn, of Sober Living Outpatient, requested permission to install an awning recently that city officials told him he wasn't permitted to run a medical office out of the buildings.

Jahn said he wanted to fix the discrepancy so he filed the request to change the zoning to medical offices. But without any discussion, city commissioners late Tuesday denied the request to change the classification.

Jahn said he has been running the business at both buildings for several months after he received a tax certificate from the city and permission from the Florida Department of Children and Families.

He said the city told him the one-story office buildings, which were constructed in 1934, are considered to be professional offices. It told him, he said, that he would need to submit a request to change the classification of the properties to medical offices, which according to city rules are permitted in the area.

The northernmost building, at 830 SE Fifth Ave., is about 1,200 square feet. The southernmost building, at 836 SE Fifth Ave., is slightly larger at about 1,400 square feet. According to city records, the buildings were previously occupied by Moore Hearing Aid Center and State Farm Insurance, respectively.

Delray planning officials had said the operators met the legal requirements defined by the city to change the building's use from professional to medical. To change the classification, the operator would have to agree to several requirements, including adding security cameras and installing a bike rack. Jahn said he agreed to any necessary requirements.

Still, commissioners denied the change of use to medical offices.

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