

Hello, my name is Scott Pardy. I am lifelong resident of Bangor and a man in long term recovery. I am the founder, owner and operator of Fresh Start Sober Living in Bangor as well as a director on the board of MARR. Fresh Start was founded in October of 2018 as a sober home for men getting out of jail or prison, wanting recovery with no safe and affordable place to go. This started with some hoops to jump through with the city including meeting with the city planner, code enforcement officer and the appeals board in order to allow for more than 5 unrelated people living under one roof. Because this was new to me and was new to the city of Bangor, we were asked to obtain some sort of variance from the state fire marshal's office.

This is from an email sent to me on August 22, 2018.

Scott,

After reading your rules and applications I believe you fall under the Sober house protection provided by the federal Americans with disabilities standard. With this being said there is case law that prohibits State and local authorities from imposing fire safety requirements on your facility. We would view your facility as a single family home and as such would defer all permitting and inspections to the City of Bangor.

Richard McCarthy
Assistant State Fire Marshal
Prevention & Inspection Division
Office of State Fire Marshal

A month later we received the "all go" from the city of Bangor.

Today we have 12 homes and 89 beds. All our homes are MARR certified and inspected. Our mission statement reads "safe and affordable housing for men and women seeking recovery. Fresh Start works with DOC, Maine pre-trial services, Penobscot county drug court, Penobscot county jail, the city of Bangor, Bangor Area Recovery Network and many others.

Putting any additional financial burden on Fresh Start could result in (A) closing homes which would definitely add to the homeless population as well as add to the overdose count. (B) Fresh Start is fully self-supporting and would have to raise rates. The cost of sprinkling all the homes could be in excess of \$500,000.00. Raising rates is not an option to our members and defeats the mission.

LD 109 could mandate the closing of many recovery residences and the result would be catastrophic.

I ask that you leave LD 353 as it was designed to do. It allows for "Safe and Affordable housing for men and women seeking recovery."

Thank you,

Scott Pardy