



**Town of Youngtown
12030 Clubhouse Square
Youngtown, Arizona 85363**

February 24, 2014

Ms. Cynthia Dunham, Executive Director
West Mesa Community Development Corporation
567 W. 10th St.
Mesa, AZ 85201

Dear Ms. Dunham:

Norman King and Larry LeSueur asked if I would be willing to contact you and share Youngtown's experience with Cornerstone Property Services and Southwest Key.

Prior to Town Council approval of the required special use permit, we thoroughly vetted the organization and principals involved. Included in this vetting process was a 'field trip' which took our entire Council to examine Southwest Key's Phoenix operation located at 2932 N. 14th Street. We interacted with staff, clients and principals during the vetting process. All feedback and investigation results were positive. There were no complaints from neighbors of existing facilities in other cities. Youngtown Town Council's approval of the special use permit was unanimous.

Southwest Key's Youngtown facility (La Hacienda del Sol) opened in May of last year and has quickly become a good neighbor and a valued addition to the community. The operation is a closed campus, located in what was a vacant property--last used as a nursing home. It is located in a mixed-use neighborhood with staff and clients quietly going about their mission of providing temporary housing for immigrant children while they are processed for return to their country of origin. Clients' average stay is around 35 days.

Both the building and the grounds were substantially rehabilitated and gentrified. The contractor partnered closely with our code and building inspection staffs to assure compliance with all life-safety, building and maintenance codes.

I would heartily recommend the organization to any municipality being considered for a facility location. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. My Cell # is 623.262.7744.

Sincerely,


Michael LeVault, Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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