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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN METAPSYCHOLOGY

November 2, 1992

Mr. Ken Clark
Planning Department
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

RE: 431 Burgess

Dear Mr. Clark:

We have been informed by the City that there has been a complaint that a church is being operated at the premises located at 431 Burgess Drive. The purpose of this letter is to describe the nature of the operations at the premises so that you may judge whether they are in compliance with the zoning ordinance.

The building is currently leased to the Institute for Research in Metapsychology (IRM) and the Center for Applied Metapsychology (CAM). These are separate corporate entities, and each occupies about one-half of the approximately 6000 sf building.

CAM is classified under the IRS code as a church; IRM is not. However, the primary activities of CAM are counseling and training. CAM does not hold worship services, perform baptisms, or carry out other such activities typical of churches. CAM also does not regularly hold meetings or other gatherings that involve large groups of people. On-site parking at the premises has always been sufficient. Activities occur primarily during normal business hours and early evenings and not during weekends. During the three years of operations at this site, we have received no complaints or comments about our activities from any of our neighbors.

The building is located in the C-1-A zone which permits professional, administrative, executive and general offices. The activities of CAM and IRM are consistent with these uses as defined in the code. Section 16.04.120 states, "Church means a structure intended as a meeting place for organized religious worship and related activities". We feel that this does not apply to the building or the activities occurring therein. 431 Burgess is an office building with numerous private offices, and is not a "structure intended as a meeting place for organized religious worship". Secondly, as mentioned above, no religious worship meetings occur at the premises.

We trust that you will find that the activities of the tenants are consistent with the zoning ordinance. If we can be of further assistance to your investigation, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frank A. Gerbode

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