

Appeal delays eviction of girls at foster home

By Roger K. Lowe
Post Staff-Reporter

Straight Inc., a drug treatment program, has appealed a Wyoming city order that would have evicted several girls from a foster home next Monday.

The appeal delays the eviction for at least a week, because Wyoming's board of Building and Zoning Appeals won't consider the appeal until May 17.

Several girls spend each night at the house at [REDACTED] and spend each day at the Mt. Repose drug treatment center of Straight Inc., according to Jerry Rushing, Straight director.

BUT THAT violates the single-family residential zoning for the neighborhood, City Manager Randolph Forrester said.

Four to six unrelated girls live in the house, he said, adding that the home also could be considered a boarding house because some of the girls pay for living there.

"This does not fit into our definition of family, and it's in a single-family area," Forrester said. "We have a very tight definition of family. It's very conservative, very clear and very restrictive."

Rushing said recently the number of girls staying in the house varies, and the three-page appeal says the number does not exceed three girls. Families are not paid for keeping girls, but donations are given, Rushing said.

THE APPEAL, filed late last week by Rushing and by home-

owners Jerald and Margaret Freedman, asks the appeals board to take one of three actions:

- To permit Straight Inc. to house up to three girls in the home and to declare that the use is not in violation with the zoning code.
- To grant a variance to the zoning code to permit the girls to stay there.
- To have the city council issue a special permit for the home. A special permit was issued several years ago to allow a group home for boys to open on Burns Avenue.

FORRESTER SAID the board has no power to tell the city council to issue the special permit.