

P 3-BLS

## St. Pete-Based Drug Program Wants Area Branch

Herald-Tribune Reporter **Straight, Inc.** of St Petersburg, a rehabilitation program for youthful drug abusers, is seeking a change in the county's zoning code to allow a Sarasota branch.

There is nothing in the Sarasota County code for the type of facility that Straight operates in St. Petersburg.

Hearings to enable a branch under a special exception to industrial zoning is scheduled before the County Planning Commission July 17 and before the County Commission July 22.

Straight then would file for a special exception on a specific property.

Youths enrolled in Straight stay with foster parents, who have a member more advanced in the program.

**Straight**, in announcing plans for a local branch early last May, cited Aug. 1 as a target

date for opening in an existing building.

Tony DeDeyn, in charge of the campaign to raise operating funds to get the branch started, said Straight likes industrial areas because of the size of the buildings, rental costs and larger degree of remoteness. He noted that Straight in St. Petersburg always has been

located in industrially zoned areas.

Completing the zoning process would delay the opening beyond that date.

Two locations under consideration are on Cattleman Road, near the county administration offices, and at MacIntosh and Clark roads.

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