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By [Steve Doyle](#)

Proposed Alabama Women's Center location on Sparkman.jpg

The Huntsville area's only abortion clinic, Alabama Women's Center for Reproductive Alternatives, wants to move into this building at 4831 Sparkman Drive. (Paul Gattis | pgattis@al.com)

[HUNTSVILLE, Alabama](#) – People on both sides of the abortion debate are expected to pack City Hall for tonight's Huntsville Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting.

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Several weeks ago, Huntsville Manager of Planning Services Jim McGuffey

ruled that an abortion clinic's proposed move to Sparkman Drive was legal under city zoning rules.



James Henderson (Steve Doyle | sdoyle@al.com)

[Anti-abortion activists vehemently disagreed](#) and have asked zoning adjustment board members to reconsider. Rev. James Henderson and an attorney for the Life Legal Defense Foundation will argue their case at today's 6 p.m. meeting.

Henderson is executive director of the Christian Coalition of Alabama.

The property at 4831 Sparkman Drive sits in a residential zone, but the owners were granted a use variance in 1998 to build a Huntsville Hospital-managed medical clinic.

The medical clinic closed several years ago; the building across from Ed White Middle School is currently home to a private obstetrics-gynecology practice.

Dalton Johnson recently purchased the building for his Alabama Women's Center for Reproductive Alternatives, the Huntsville area's only abortion clinic. The clinic [closed its Madison Street location in late June](#) when the cramped office could not be retrofitted to comply with the Alabama Women's Health and Safety Act.

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Because the former Huntsville Hospital facility and Alabama Women's Center are both medical clinics, McGuffey ruled, the proposed abortion clinic meets the terms of the 1998 use variance.

Henderson contends the variance should have expired when the Huntsville Hospital clinic closed.

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


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