

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



## BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: April 8, 2025

**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Amy Zukowski, Director of Finance

**Topic:** Serial Raffle License

### PURPOSE

Open Access is a local non-profit agency headquartered at 900 Maple Avenue in Homewood, Illinois. Open Access made application for a Serial Raffle License to hold a Queen of Hearts raffle at The Ridgewood located at 2059 Ridge Road. Since they are requesting exceptions to the requirements in the Homewood Municipal Code, their request requires Board approval of an ordinance waiving certain requirements.

### PROCESS

#### *The Non-Profit*

According to their website, Open Access was founded in 2013. Their mission is simple: “We exist to fill the gaps in our underserved community. We do this by distributing essential items, and providing needed support to those individuals and families who need it most. Open Access strives to continuously advocate and provide a gateway to services where access to vital support is limited.”

#### *Understanding the Queen of Hearts Raffle*

Organizations generally use the Queen of Hearts Raffle for fund-raising efforts. The game begins with a player buying one or more tickets for an established cost. The tickets sold during any given week will all be placed in a ticket return bin. Each week, at the time and place shown on the schedule, one ticket will be drawn from the roller. The ticket is validated for authenticity. The matching ticket must be presented by the winner to redeem a prize. On the spot, the owner of the chosen ticket will have the opportunity to try to draw the *Queen of Hearts* from a deck of playing cards. If the Queen of Hearts is drawn, the Jackpot will be paid out as described in the advertised rules. If not, the game continues until the Queen of Hearts is drawn.

#### *Open Access’ Application for Serial Raffle License*

Attached is an application from Open Access for a serial raffle license. The organization proposes to sell raffle tickets for \$5 each. The drawings for this 50/50 Queen of Hearts raffle will be held weekly beginning April 15, 2026 and end no later than April 30, 2026. Drawings will be held at The Ridgewood. Open Access also requests the following exceptions:

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1. Extension of ticket sales timeframe from the 90-day maximum to a 54-week maximum
2. Waive the capped/maximum prize value of \$5,000, or allow an increase up to \$250,000

### OUTCOME

Issuing this serial raffle license will potentially draw more customers to a local establishment and provide another entertainment option for visitors.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** No Financial Impact

### LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

### RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass an ordinance temporarily suspending the maximum prize and sale date limitations in the Homewood Municipal code for the Queen of Hearts raffle conducted by Open Access of Homewood, IL subject to an approved background check.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

- Raffle Application
- Letter requesting exceptions
- Rules for Raffle
- Ordinance waiving requirements