



February 2008

Dear C4C Supporter,

Almost 4 years ago, C4C was organized to oppose a reservation/casino in our community. This was shortly after a front page story in the NWI Times entitled, "Ho-Chunk rolls dice on Lynwood casino" (May, 2004) came out in support of this project. The article presented the project as an economic boost and quoted Rep. Jackson as saying, "For too long, the Southland has had the region's highest unemployment rates, highest property taxes and the longest commute times. Conversely, for too long, we have been the home to some of the state's poorest communities and the poorest school districts." We, as C4C, remain opposed to such unproductive economics.

As we have informed you in prior newsletters, the C4C Board decided to hire a historian to document whether or not there are any aboriginal rights on behalf of the Ho-Chunk Nation to the property in Lynwood, as that claim is central to any effort on their part to have the land placed into trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and permanently removed from the tax rolls in Lynwood, Cook County and the State of Illinois. As was documented by our historian, there are no aboriginal rights to this area not only by the Ho-Chunk, but also by other tribes who might view this property as a prime spot for a casino since it is directly connected to an off-ramp on a major expressway in a major metropolitan area. This lengthy document is central to our opposition to this and any other tribal casino. This report has been given to the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of the people of Lynwood and surrounding communities by C4C placing them on notice of our opposition to this or any tribal casino. The C4C Board entered into an agreement with our historian to pay him a total of \$12,700.00 for the research and report. Of this total amount, we have already paid \$9,735.00, leaving a balance owed of \$2,965.00. We trust that you understand this report is an investment for the future of our area. We would like to continue to make payments on the balance owed for this research/report and ask you, once again, for your support in this effort. Please know how grateful we are for your past support of this cause – we could not have done this without you!

Although presently, we are not as actively involved in our opposition (we have done what we could), we still meet almost monthly. Last month, Anita Bedell of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) contacted us about hearings in Chicago and Springfield regarding a massive gambling expansion bill (HB 4194). From their website at [www.ilcaaap.org](http://www.ilcaaap.org), we read that "The House adjourned without considering the massive gambling expansion bill (HB 4194). The House and Senate both passed a stand-alone mass transit bill and did not link a capital construction bill to gambling expansion as proposed." ILCAAAP included in their website report the following:

"Special thanks to those who came to Springfield on Tuesday [January 8] to testify/attend the hearing on HB 4194: Laura Dean Friedrich, from Protestants for the Common Good and Doug Dobmeyer represented the Chicago Task Force to Oppose Gambling in Chicago, Randall Blakey, spokesperson, and Ken DeJong from Citizens for our Community in Lynwood, Pastor Glenn Steward and Rev. Bill Owens from

Waukegan, Elizabeth and Charles Finley from the Illinois WCTU. They did a great job and made an impact. Speaker Madigan attended the entire two-hour hearing as well as all the statewide media. Many gambling interests either oppose HB 4194 or would like to amend the bill. It's not a "done deal".

Randall Blakely submitted the following in a report to the gambling expansion committee:

Recently, and for the second time in three years, my neighbors and I have learned that the Mayor of Lynwood is covertly vying for our village to become the new home of a land-based State Licensed Casino... Whether or not Mayor Williams' desire has reached the vicinity of your attention is really not our primary concern. Of utmost concern to the residents of the Village of Lynwood, C4C and those we represent, is that true democracy be given ample opportunity to influence any decisions made that will impact every area of our coveted quality of life.

It is our position that Mayor Williams and the Lynwood board should seek input from Lynwood residents and surrounding communities BEFORE promoting yet another casino. We quote from the National Gambling Study Commission the following in support of this position.

“The Commission urges policymakers at all levels of government to accept our challenge to evaluate and to critically test both the economic and social costs and benefits associated with the introduction of, or continuation of, or restriction of gambling activities within their communities.”

“NORC [National Opinion Research Council] found “no change in overall per capital income” after the introduction of casinos, “as the increases [in certain industries] are offset by reductions in welfare and transfer payments as well as a drop-off in income from restaurants and bars.”

“As the Commission noted earlier, in an ideal environment, policymakers and citizens prudently consider all of the relevant facts before committing themselves and their communities to major courses of action.”

Once again your responses remain a great encouragement. We still need your continued support to pay off the balance due for the excellent research/report and other costs. Please let us know of others who may like to be included on our mailing list. We do our best to keep you informed via newsletters and our website ([www.citizens4community.org](http://www.citizens4community.org)) while also striving to keep our expenses to a minimum. Thanks again for all of your support.

Sincerely,

The C4C Executive Committee