



# Cottage Grove Christian Reformed Church

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Dr. Joel Nederhood, Pastor of Preaching and Worship

Rev. Jim McCune, Pastor of Congregational Life

He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

We the Council of the Cottage Grove Christian Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois, representing the membership of this congregation, hereby register our strong opposition to the casino proposed for Lynwood, Illinois.

Gambling has grown phenomenally in our country over the last fifteen years, and there is no lack of information regarding the impact of gambling on individuals, on society and on our economy. **It is now clear that gambling corrupts human beings, destroys social relationships and ruins economic life.**

Our church, along with other churches in this region, often cares for **people** who have become compulsive gamblers. In addition to addicted gamblers, there are a large number of people for whom gambling has become a major part of their lives so that their income has been severely diminished and their behavior has been seriously corrupted.

We observe at close range what gambling does to **marriages**. A marriage cannot survive if one of the partners is destroying its financial base. Large gambling complexes, such as that proposed for Lynwood, will be accompanied by prostitution, excessive use of alcohol, and increased suicide. If one of the marriage partners is involved in gambling, the marriage will be at high risk. If both partners are involved, the risk will be more than doubled.

The Lynwood casino is especially threatening for the **families** of this region. The Ho-Chunk nation that is proposing this casino intends to make it part of what they call a "family entertainment complex." It is difficult to imagine an arrangement that would be more ruinous for families. To give children the impression that gambling is a wholesome activity, similar to riding on a water slide and playing baseball, would do them the gravest disservice. To have a casino at the center of a family entertainment complex would be highly advantageous for the gambling industry because it would guarantee them a fresh generation of patrons for the future, but it would be totally detrimental for the families who would use this complex. For a gambling organization to suggest such an arrangement is insulting to our community. It is hard to imagine how any organization would ever dare to suggest that casino gambling can appropriately be the centerpiece for a family entertainment center.

Gambling also causes **economic destruction**. Addicted gamblers desperate for money, getting inordinately high interest rate loans and payday loans and stealing from their mothers and children are only the tip of the ice berg. Gambling attacks the foundation of our economic

enterprise by destroying the connection between work and pay. It substitutes luck for work and winnings for earnings. The economic system that has made this nation great will not long survive if the habits and attitudes that accompany gambling prevail.

**As a church with the responsibility for the care of souls and as moral leaders in our community we therefore now register our strongest opposition to the casino proposed for Lynwood, Illinois. We view the establishment of this casino as a direct violation of the divine requirement that we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.**

Done in Council, August 10, 2004.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Ted Postema".

J. Ted Postema  
President of the Council  
Cottage Grove Christian Reformed Church  
16556 Cottage Grove Ave  
South Holland, IL 60473