

First Christian Reformed Church

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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 Board of Trustees/Council of the First Christian Reformed Church of Lansing, Illinois, representing the membership of this congregation, hereby register our strong opposition to the reservation casino complex 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 severely detrimental impact of gambling on individuals, on society and on our economy. **It is an incontrovertible fact that gambling corrupts human beings, destroys social relationships and ruins economic life.**

Our church, along with other churches in this region, will be caring for **people** who 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 know what gambling does to **marriages**. A marriage cannot survive if one or both 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 crime and suicide.

The Lynwood reservation 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, desperate gamblers will do anything to get money including obtaining illegal loans and payday loans, foregoing insurances, stealing from employers and family members, and allowing their children to go hungry, to name just a few. 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 moral leaders in our community and a church that cares about people's lives, we register our strongest opposition to the reservation casino complex proposed for Lynwood, Illinois. We view the establishment of this reservation casino complex as a direct violation of the divine requirement that we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God and a direct assault on its economic, moral and wholesome family-oriented base.

Serving Christ and our Community,

First Christian Reformed Church of Lansing

<u>Philip Stel</u>	Pastor/President of Board/Council
<u>Melton J. Van Druen</u>	Vice-President of Board/Council
<u>Ron Tiemebe</u>	Secretary of Board/Council