



Friday, August 20, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

"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 Consistory and governing body of the Thorn Creek Reformed Church of South Holland, Illinois, representing the membership of this congregation, hereby register our strong opposition to the reservation and 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 impact it has 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 area churches, often cares for people who have become compulsive gamblers. In addition to addicted gamblers, there are a large number of people who have suffered from diminished income, corrupted behaviors and other problems due to gambling.

We observe, at close range, what gambling does to marriages. A marriage cannot survive when one of the partners is destroying its financial base. Large gambling complexes, such as that proposed for Lynwood, will be accompanied by prostitution, excessive intake of alcohol, and increased crime. If one of the marriage partners is involved in gambling, the whole marriage will be at high risk. If both partners are involved the risks are magnified.

The Lynwood reservation casino is especially threatening for the families of this region. The Ho-Chunk nation proposes that the casino intends to develop a "family entertainment complex." It is difficult to imagine a more ruinous arrangement for families. To give children the impression that gambling is a wholesome activity, similar to riding on a water slide or playing baseball, is a grave disservice to their young and impressionable minds. To have a casino at the center of a family entertainment complex would be highly advantageous for the gambling industry because it will guarantee them a fresh generation of patrons, but it would be totally detrimental for the families who use the complex. For a gambling organization to propose such an arrangement is insulting to our community. How can any organization suggest that casino gambling is an appropriate centerpiece for a **family** entertainment center?

Thorn Creek Reformed Church

1875 E. 170th Street, South Holland, IL 60473
Church Office 708-474-4043 ☩☩☩ Newsline 708-802-0323
Fax 708-474-9151 ☩☩☩ E-mail office@thorncreek.org

Gambling also causes economic destruction. Desperate gamblers will do **anything** to get money including obtaining illegal loans, payday loans, 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 survive very long if the habits and attitudes that accompany gambling prevail.

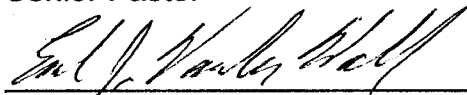
As a church with the responsibility to care for the spiritual welfare of our members and as moral leaders in our community we therefore register our strongest opposition to the reservation casino complex proposed for Lynwood, Illinois. We view the establishment of this reservation casino complex as a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

In Christ's Service,

Consistory Members representing Thorn Creek Reformed Church



Rev. P. Keith Larson
Senior Pastor



Earl Vander Wall
Vice-President of Consistory



Roger Blummer
Clerk of Consistory

The Citizens for Our Community, Inc. have permission from the above-mentioned representatives of Thorn Creek Reformed Church to use this resolution when and wherever it is appropriate to voice our congregation's opposition to the proposed reservation casino complex for Lynwood, Illinois.