

On August 14, 2007, the Board of Directors of the Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District Neighborhood Association voted to oppose the site which Christ Central Ministries has chosen for their homeless shelter.

This community strongly believes that it is the responsibility of all of us to alleviate the suffering of others. The site chosen by Christ Ministries is bounded by Main Street, Elmwood Avenue, Sumter Street, and Calhoun Street which is the first block of the city center. It is also the beginning of a multi-million dollar streetscaping project by the City of Columbia which is expected to revitalize redevelopment along Main Street.

Many questions concerning the project have not been answered. The exact programs are not known. Attempts have been made for meetings of the officials of Christ Central and the neighborhood. According to the website, there will be a detox program, a medical health clinic, medical health services, a shelter for men and women, a police substation, and other related services. According to the representative at the meeting on August 8, these services will be staffed by volunteers. Many of these services should require licensed professions and zoning exceptions.

There are many unanswered questions. The Board of Directors approved the following actions:

- Our website should provide links to Christ Central Ministries and to the interfaith group, [yeswecansc](http://www.yeswecansc.org)
- Our statement should be placed on the website
- The president should designate one person as the contact to receive all rumors and facts concerning this project