

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE OHNA NEWSLETTER

By this reading most neighbors are aware that the Wayside Christian Mission is strongly considering purchasing the now vacant Mercy Academy campus located on Broadway. They intend to use the facility as a homeless shelter for an estimated 300 occupants consisting of “women and families.”



Wayside requested to appear before the Neighborhood Association quarterly meeting to explain their plans for the Mercy Academy facility and the programs to be conducted by them at this facility, if purchased, and to respond to any neighborhood concerns or questions. The meeting took place on Monday, August 17, at the Metropolitan Community Church. It is estimated that 70-100 people were in attendance. This number includes individuals brought to the meeting by Wayside and the media. This was not the turnout that the Board anticipated for such an important dialogue.

The Board wanted to use this meeting to attempt to get a handle on just what was planned by Wayside. We mentioned to Wayside's CFO, Ms. Nina Moseley, that OHNA intended to gather the information and then rather quickly set up a meeting exclusively reserved for our neighbors in order to obtain the neighborhood sentiment in regard to such a purchase. This sentiment will be provided to Wayside.

**A meeting will be held on August 28, 2008 at the Jefferson Traditional Middle School (1418 Morton Avenue) auditorium. This meeting will begin around 7:00 P.M.**

In your Board's estimation this matter has the potential for enormous and long-term impact upon the Original Highlands neighborhood. This is no time to be indifferent or assume "others" will protect your particular viewpoint. We need to see YOU at this meeting. We need to hear the voices of our friends and neighbors. In my opinion, and this was not anticipated in view of the many "opposition" comments made to me prior, the Monday meeting did not paint a strong picture one way or the other!

The OHNA Board of Directors are elected to support the clear and "expressed" sentiment of our neighbors and not our own personal interests. Unless a significant majority wants to support or oppose Wayside, it makes little sense to actively engage Wayside.

In addition to the upcoming meeting, we plan on obtaining your voting preference with respect to your position. We may also circulate a petition in order to try to get a handle on neighborhood opposition. The Board will do its part. You must do your part.

**JEFFERSON TRADITIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
1418 MORTON AVENUE  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2008  
7:00 PM**