

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: "lisa gallagher" <lisa_a_gallagher@hotmail.com>

To: <CouncilGroup@rcgov.org>

Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2006 7:16 PM

Subject: rezoning

> This is in regards to the proposed rezoning of the property at 3402 Cottonwood Drive. I am voicing my opposition to the proposed rezoning of the Calvary Lutheran Church to Office Commercial space. There are countless commercial areas available to Wellspring, Inc. for the uses they intend. This is a quiet family neighborhood which already sees a great deal of traffic. As it is, a 16-unit condo/apartment building is near completion on Evergreen, immediately across from my home. I was not permitted to be involved in the deciding factor to add this unit to our neighborhood, although I am a homeowner here. I hope that the community will be given voice in making this further decision about altering our neighborhood. I am certain that Wellspring does many good things for the troubled youths and adults here in Rapid City, but the excess traffic that it will bring and the concerns for the many children in our community highlight a need to protect this area.

>

> I appreciate your attention. I do plan to attend some of the upcoming meetings to voice my opposition in person.

>

> Thank you.

>

> Lisa A. Gallagher

>

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: [Barb Bom](#)

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2006 9:16 AM

Subject: Rezoning of Calvary Lutheran Church

Dear Council Members,

It has been brought to my attention that the property where Calvary Lutheran Church is may be rezoned. I am writing to let you know that I for one am against this. I have lived in that neighborhood for 20 years. It is quite and safe and as a single woman, this is of the utmost importance to me.

If this rezoning is approved, it then becomes even easier to get it rezoned once again. What is to stop the new owners of the property from turning around at a later date and selling to someone who decides the building would make a good bar? What is to stop someone from buying Canyon Lake School and turning it into a night club?

Please listen to the residents of this area and leave the zoning residential.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bom
2002 2nd Avenue
Rapid City, SD 57702-3322
605-348-5815

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: [Emily Price](#)

To: councilgroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2006 9:06 AM

Subject: Rezoning of 3402 Cottonwood Drive to Wellspring Inc.

I live at 2105 Forest Street in the Canyon Lake area. Someone left a flyer on my door Friday asking me to email the Council to protest the above rezoning.

However, I am TOTALLY IN FAVOR of this rezoning. I doubt very much if the opposition is to rezoning in general, but is aimed in particular at the Wellspring facility. No one sets up a cry of protest when older homes are bulldozed to make room for high density apartments that add to the traffic and noise. The church itself probably caused more traffic congestion and noise, albeit only on a weekly basis, than the new Wellspring facility will. Additionally, I don't swallow the scare tactic that this one rezoning will open the floodgates for rezoning and first thing you know the Canyon Lake area will be filled with gas stations, casinos, dance halls, and saloons. I trust our planning commission and council to review each situation thoughtfully and objectively.

I'm sure the Wellspring facility will blend in seamlessly with the surrounding community and allow them to continue their valuable work, which benefits everyone. Please vote yes on the rezoning proposal.

[Emily Price](#)

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: "Gurmanator" <gurmanator@rushmore.com>
To: <councilgroup@rcgov.org>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2006 8:24 PM
Subject: Calvary Lutheran church

>I do not want this property rezoned to office commercial. Its nice
to come home at night to a quiet neighborhood, and leave the city. If
one office building comes in, how far will another one be. And another and another.
until we are living in downtown.

> Please vote no to any rezoning.

> Brian Gurr
> 1929 Twin Elm Dr.
> Rapid City
>

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: "Rainforest" <rainforest@rushmore.com>

To: <councilgroup@rcgov.org>

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2006 8:20 PM

Subject: Calvary Lutheran church

>I understand that Calvary Lutheran church is wanting a rezoning to
>office commercial. I am very much opposed to this. the neighborhood
>is a nice quiet place now, and a
> good place to live. offices and commercial buildings are taking over
> too many neighborhoods.
> the streets are too narrow to accommodate commercial traffic. then
> there would be more
> street repair and making them wider, and higher taxes. we need to
> keep this neighborhood
> just like it is, safe for our children to play in, and not be afraid
> of business traffic.
> Please DO NOT rezone this area.
> Janet Gurr
> 2310 38th St.
> Rapid City.
>

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: Ward <bodaciousrules@rap.midco.net>

To: <councilgroup@rcgov.org>

Sent: Tue, 25 Jul 2006 09:41

Subject: Fwd: proposed rezoning of Calvary Lutheran Church area

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We own a home and live at 1825 Evergreen Dr., which is kitty corner from Calvary Lutheran Church. We are against the proposed rezoning of this area from medium density residential to office commercial. We feel that Wellspring's work is necessary and that they are doing a fine job. However, there are other places that they could locate this facility that would already be zoned commercial. For instance the former DAN'S Supermarket building.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ward and Sharon Dye bodaciousrules@rap.midco.net

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: Arnold Gust <ancgust@rushmore.com>

To: <COUNCILGROUP@rcgov.org>

Sent: Mon, 24 Jul 2006 21:30

Subject: Fwd: Rezoning Calvery Luthern church property

I am writing this e-mail to urge all city council members and the Mayor to vote against the rezoning of Calvary Lutheran Church property to OFFICE COMMERCIAL, I am a member of Calvary Lutheran church and have been for many years, but I am also a resident of the CANYON LAKE AREA. I am just concerned what is going to happen to our Canyon Lake area if little by little it gets rezoned to commercial. Thank You

Sincerely Arnold V. Gust

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: Todd Potter <TPOTTER@gp.usbr.gov>

To: <councilgroup@rcgov.org>

Sent: Tue, 25 Jul 2006 11:04

Subject: Fwd: Rezoning of Canyon Lake Area

City Council Members,

We are concerned about a recent proposed action to rezone the Canyon Lake area, particularly the Calvary Lutheran Church area, from medium density residential to office commercial.

We are home owners and active voters in the affected area, 1820 Sun Valley Drive, and are extremely opposed to this motion to rezone. The neighborhood we live in is very quiet, with an abundance of families with children. This motion to rezone to office commercial will have a negative effect on property values and bring unwanted traffic into a quiet and peaceful neighborhood. The streets in the proposed area were built for quiet, residential use, as they are very narrow and meandering. An increase in traffic will ultimately lead to accidents pertaining to children who ride bikes and recreate throughout the neighborhood, as well as an increase in crime.

Council Member Karen Gunderson Olson, as head of the Future Land Use subcommittee, our future lies in your hands. Please see that the best interests of the people who voted you in are met, not the interests of business looking to invade a peaceful residential district.

Rezoning the Canyon Lake area will open the door for more commercial businesses to establish themselves in a neighborhood tailored to homes. The rezoning would set a precedence for any business to move into any residential neighborhood in Rapid City. We as a city need to put our foot down, and cannot let this happen. Our hope is that the City Council will do everything possible to keep the current zoning ordinance, and not allow business to move into neighborhoods where they are not wanted. Let me ask you this Council Members, would you like a business moving into your peaceful neighborhood?

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Respectfully and Sincerely,

Todd and Lonna Potter
1820 Sun Valley Drive
Rapid City, SD

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: [Al Lloyd](#)

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 4:26 PM

Subject: Rezoning of Calvary Lutheran Church property

Dear City Council Members: I am strongly opposed to the rezoning of the Calvary Lutheran Church property. I feel this is a move that opens another door toward destroying neighborhoods. Already the MDR classification has caused many, many homeowners to suffer from large apartment complexes that are unwanted. This is another step in the wrong direction. I am in hopes that you will not look favorably on this process of rezoning the property from MDR to Office Commercial. It needs to stay a residential area.

Sincerely,

Troy A. Lloyd
1936 Elmhurst Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702
719-9805

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: Debbie Bertrand <diggerdeb@hotmail.com>

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Thu, 27 Jul 2006 13:02

Subject: Fwd: Calvary Lutheran Church Property

Dear Council Members:

I am a new homeowner on 2nd Avenue. I moved to this particular area because of its uniqueness and comfort of a homey style of living. I oppose the rezoning of the property at the Calvary Lutheran Church as I believe it will take away the "neighborhood" out of the area. I hope you will reconsider and not allow this to happen.

Debra Bertrand
2021 Second Avenue
Rapid City, SD 57702

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jan Evans](#)

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2006 2:34 PM

Subject: Possible zoning change in my residential area.

Wellspring sponsored a meeting at the Calvary Lutheran Church on Tuesday, July 25th to let those that are within a 150' - 200' radius of the church know that they were purchasing it if they could get the property zoned to commercial. There were probably only a couple of people that received the notice prior to the meeting and one of those people let everyone else in on the meeting schedule even if we didn't live in the 200' radius. This is our neighborhood and we want to keep the integrity of the neighborhood as a residential area and DO NOT want property to be zoned as commercial in our neighborhood. This encroachment on our residential property brings extra traffic to our area and the potential for crime. There should be plenty of commercial properties for sale that could accommodate their needs. We are passionate about our neighborhood and how we want it to be maintained. Please come to the meeting with the zoning people tonight, Thursday, July 27th, and meet with us to see how much we want to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood. This is our home and we DO NOT want commercial properties coming into our area.

Thank you for your time and I hope to see any or all of you at the meeting tonight.

Janice Evans
3608 Washington Street
Rapid City, SD 57702

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: James White <soundpro@rushmore.com>

To: <CouncilGroup@rcgov.org>

Sent: Fri, 28 Jul 2006 20:39

Subject: Fwd: Invite to Wellsprings facility on St. James St.

To all council members,

First let me introduce myself. I am Jim White and I am on the board of directors of Wellspring here in Rapid City. As some of you may already know we have requested a rezoning of the Calvary Lutheran Church so we might be able to purchase it and consolidate our day programs that we currently operate in two different locations at the present time. There is some neighborhood opposition to our request, which we do understand, but we would ask that all of you take the time to come to our St. James St. facility to see what we do, and more importantly how we do it. We honestly believe that what we propose for the church is truly in the best interest of the neighborhood. We will work very diligently to ensure the integrity of the site and the neighborhood. I know that some of the neighbors have fear over the changes that are taking place in their community, but we feel that we are better prepared to work along side of them to insure the continuation of this neighborhood. What we ask is that before you are called upon to make a decision on this issue, that you will make an effort to learn as much as you can about us.

I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to read this, and we look forward to showing you our facility.

I am respectfully yours,
Jim White
Sound Pro

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: Mulwyk1@aol.com

To: councilgroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Fri, 28 Jul 2006 12:41:42 EDT

Subject: Fwd: re-zone of Calvary Lutheran Church

I want to make you aware of the neighborhood meeting last night at Calvary Lutheran Church. There were about 80 people there including Karen Olson, Deb Hadcock and Malcom Chapman from the City Council and Vicki Fisher and Marge Elkins from city Growth Management office.

At issue is the proposed sale of the church to Wellspring Inc. Wellspring has requested a rezone of the property to Office/Commercial. The neighborhood is currently zoned medium density residential as specified in the Canyon Lake Overlay.

This is an absolutely unique neighborhood in Rapid City...or any city. It is an area of narrow twisting streets, huge old trees, older homes alongside newer homes alongside cottages. Residents are working families and retired folks and young marrieds. It's an area of joggers and dog walkers and children playing in the street. Most everyone knows their neighbors...it is, in short, a traditional residential neighborhood.

Needless to say, the residents feel it would be a tragic mistake to spot zone the church property as Commercial. We feel it would forever ruin the character of the neighborhood.

Two interesting proposals came out of last nights meeting:

The first was a proposal to start a Canyon Lake Neighborhood Association. Several residents are, in fact, moving forward with the organization of such an association. Perhaps you have some tips on how to proceed?

The second proposal was that the city purchase the property and convert it into a small neighborhood park. The park would be a place for children to play and seniors to sit. It would be a real asset to the neighborhood. And it would retain our neighborhoods unique pedestrian character. Could you give us some advice on how to work such a proposal through city government?

Bob and Sharon Gustafson
1930 Evergreen Dr.
343-1803

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: dot schmitendorf <fldotspot@earthlink.net>

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Sun, 30 Jul 2006 13:47

Subject: Fwd: RE: Rezone request 3402 Cottonwood

James and Dorothy Schmitendorf
2022 1st Avenue
Rapid City, SD 57702

August 1, 2006

City of Rapid City
City Council Members

We wish to address our concerns regarding the rezoning request for the property at 3402 Cottonwood (Calvary Lutheran Church) from Medium Residential Density to office Commercial to effect the sale of the property to Wellspring, Inc.

We're against it!

We can surely agree that the area between Jackson Boulevard and Canyon Lake Drive is intensely residential with many odd, narrow streets, many of which dead-end. A lot of the homes are owner occupied and my feeling is that the whole area is on the upswing. When you do a slow drive through, you'll see many, many homes with recent improvements. This is a good thing for the area and for Rapid City.

We're pretty sure that setting a precedent for rezoning to Office Commercial will not enhance the area in the future. It will surely change the quality of life we now enjoy here.

We ask that you consider our rights as residents of a 'neighborhood' in considering this rezoning request.

Sincerely,
James A. and Dorothy C. Schmitendorf, owners/residents
2022 1st Avenue
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-348-3031

----- Original Message -----

From: [Peggy Saunders/Steve Manlove](#)

To: councilgroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Monday, July 31, 2006 7:53 PM

Subject: FW: Calvary Lutheran Church rezoning

Dear Council Members:

I am the President of the Wellspring Board of Directors and I have been involved with Wellspring since it was founded. I am writing in favor of the proposal to rezone the Calvary Lutheran Church property on Cottonwood Street. There are several issues I would like you to consider as you think about this:

1. Use of the property by Wellspring would result in very little change to the neighborhood. The building would not look different on the outside. The traffic change in the neighborhood would be minimal; indeed there would be far less traffic on Wednesday and Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. There would be no parking congestion at any time. Most Wellspring programming for the proposed site takes place between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; we need parking for less than 40 cars.

2. I understand the neighbors' concern that rezoning opens the door to less desirable commercial ventures should Wellspring ever sell the property. (Indeed, at the public meetings, several individuals said they supported Wellspring coming into the neighborhood, but opposed rezoning because of who might buy the property if Wellspring ever needed to sell.) Zoning as Office Commercial with Planned Development Designation, which Wellspring supports, would ensure that the neighborhood would have significant input into potential uses of the land should Wellspring ever need to sell the property.

3. In the ten years of Wellspring's existence, we have never had a complaint from any of the four neighborhoods where we have operated programs. Children attending the Youth and Family Counseling Center (the program which would be housed on the property under discussion) are not dangerous. Youth and families served at the new location are at the low end of the risk continuum: they are students who have been absent from school and have fallen behind (we give them tutoring to catch up, along with counseling), foster children who need help adjusting to a new foster family, youth who have a single parent and are beginning to question parental authority, etc. Children with more serious problems, including youth who exhibit aggressive or violent behavior, are treated in more secure environments at Wellspring's residential and inpatient treatment centers, or referred to other agencies. Almost all of the adolescents in Youth and Family Counseling Center programs would attend public school during the day and come to the Cottonwood Street property after school. All youth would go to their own homes at night.

4. Wellspring serves a major need in Rapid City. All of the Wellspring programs together serve approximately 300 children and their families yearly. The program which would be housed on the property under discussion has an average weekly enrollment of 50 adolescents who come from all across Rapid City. Wellspring has been very successful at helping struggling children turn their lives around and become productive members of our community. We believe the programs we provide strengthen families and keep children in school and out of Court Services and the Juvenile Services Center.

5. I have attended both of the public meetings hosted by Wellspring at Calvary Lutheran Church. A very small percentage of the neighbors attended either meeting (10 people attended the first meeting; 23 attended the second) with many of the same people attending both meetings. In both cases, individuals from the neighborhood made a special effort to speak with me privately to express their support for Wellspring coming into their neighborhood. I am confident that once Wellspring is operating in the area, the rest of the neighborhood will become comfortable and even proud to have us as their neighbor.

06RZ020

Please contact me if I can give you more information. We would love to have you visit our St. James Street facility so we can show who we are.

Stephen P. Manlove, M.D.
President, Wellspring Board of Directors

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: [Donna Neal](#)

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2006 12:52 PM

Subject: Canyon Lake Area Wellspring move

I have lived in my home on Evergreen Dr. for 51 years. This may be an older neighborhood, but I feel it is perhaps one of the safer places to live.

I don't feel this should be rezoned to Office Commercial.

Please **do not** rezoned to Office Commercial. Keep this part of Canyon Lake the nice residential area it is now.

Pauline Ball
1805 Evergreen Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: "Barb Fierro" <barb.fierro@wellspringrc.org>
To: <tom.johnson@rcgov.org>; <mike.schumacher@rcgov.org>;
<deb.hadcock@rcgov.org>; <sam.kooiker@rcgov.org>;
<bill.okrepkie@rcgov.org>;
<ron.kroeger@rcgov.org>; <bob.hurlbut@rcgov.org>;
<karen.olson@rcgov.org>;
<lloyd.lacroiz@rcgov.org>; <malcom.chapman@rcgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 3:58 PM
Subject: <no subject>

Dear City Council Member

We understand that our application for rezoning the property currently owned and occupied by Calvary Lutheran Church has sparked considerable interest and we would like to have an opportunity to review Wellspring's intended use of the property with you and answer any questions you have.

We have had two meetings with the community because we want to be good neighbors. We truly believe Wellspring is going to cause less intrusion and traffic congestion in the neighborhood than the church has caused.

It appears that the primary objection by the neighbors is the rezoning of the property to office-commercial. Since the building already exists, we believe it is a suitable location for our family counseling center, however rezoning seems to be our only option at this time.

I will be calling each of you tomorrow to see if you have a few minutes in your schedule to join us, individually, and at your convenience, for a short meeting.

Barbara

Barbara Fierro Development Director
..... Wellspring, Inc.
1600 Mt. View Rd. Suite 102
Rapid City, SD 57702
p. 605-718-4870
f. 605-718-4878
e. barb.fierro@wellspringrc.org

www.wellspringrc.org

06RZ020

-----Original Message-----

From: Todd Potter [<mailto:TPOTTER@gp.usbr.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 9:27 AM
To: bill.okrepkie@rcgov.org; councilgroup@rcgov.org;
karen.olson@rcgov.org; mayor@rcgov.org; planning.commission@rcgov.org
Cc: lonnak20@yahoo.com; pottersinthehills@yahoo.com
Subject: Canyon Lake Overlay

Mayor Shaw and Council Members,

We were unable to attend the planning commission's meeting held Thursday, July 27th at Calvary Lutheran Church. As home owners in the affected area, 1820 Sun Valley Drive, we would greatly appreciate the minutes from the meeting, or an overview (if no one recorded minutes) so that we may further educate ourselves on this issue.

From what we have seen from the City's website, the City plans to rezone the whole canyon lake area, and not just the block where the church resides. In talking with some of my neighbors, nobody understands the geometry of the area to be rezoned. It seems only fair for the City of Rapid City to notify the residents of the affected area, so that they may be informed of what the City has planned for the neighborhood. Thus far, we have received nothing of the sort. This concerns us, in that there must be a vested interest (\$\$\$\$\$\$\$) in developing this area into an office park of some sort. What will this do to our taxes and property values? This is a "middle class" neighborhood in a beautiful area of Rapid City. Would this sort of thing be considered in a "upper class" neighborhood? Does the City intend to turn its back on its hard-working, middle-class residents?

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.
Yours Respectfully and Sincerely,

Todd and Lonna Potter
1820 Sun Valley Drive
Rapid City

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: drkayfoland@rushmore.com

To: drkayfoland@rushmore.com

Sent: Tue, 01 Aug 2006 11:24

Subject: Fwd: Proposal from Wellspring to buy and use Calvary Lutheran Church

Dear Mayor Shaw and Council Members:

I am a member of Calvary Lutheran Church and a registered nurse working in Rapid City. I would like to urge you to vote and allow rezoning from medium density to Office Commercial so that Wellspring can buy and use the church for its outpatient counseling services.

Wellspring has an excellent record of working with and changing youth through its counseling programs. In over 10-years of word, there have been no complaints with this agency or the people it serves by neighbors or others.

The youth, children and their families who will use this new location are at low risk for problems related to disupting the neighborhood. The youth that have much more potential to worry the neighbors are not being treated in this proposed facility, but at another more secure place (in-patient treatment center). Wellspring does such wonderful work and has the potential to do more work if allowed to move to this new building.

I urge you to vote to support the rezoning and allow Wellspring to purchase and use Calvary Lutheran Church when the issue comes up on August 21st. Thanks for your time and consideration. Kay Foland

Kay Foland
6815 Riviera Court
Rapid City, SD 57702

06RZ020

-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Leinweber [mailto:jewelry123@rushmore.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2006 7:28 PM

To: CouncilGroup@rcgov.org

Subject: Rezoning of the property located at 3402 Cottonwood Drive

Greetings,

This e-mail is being sent to let you know my concerns about changing the zoning of the property own by the Calvary Lutheran Church at 3402 Cottonwood Drive to office commercial so that Wellspring, Inc. may purchase it.

This property is located in the middle of a well established, older neighborhood. The streets are narrow and in many instances if a car is parked on the street the street isn't wide enough for two way traffic. (one of the cars must yield to the oncoming car)

My other concern is opening up our neighborhood to further commercial rezoning. Calvary Lutheran Church is just one long block on either side from Jackson Blvd. and Canyon Lake Drive.

I own a house just 2 blocks from the church. I knew the church was there when I bought the house which added to the appeal of the neighborhood. It never occurred to me that the church would sell to a business that wanted to rezone it for commercial use. I love my house and my neighborhood and I would hate to see the area be zoned for office commercial use.

Sincerely,

Judy Leinweber
1825 Hartland Ct.

06RZ020

----- Original Message -----

From: Karen <karengo@rap.midco.net>

To: 'Peggy Saunders/Steve Manlove' <manlove@rapidnet.com>

Sent: Wed, 2 Aug 2006 10:43

Subject: Fwd: RE: Calvary Lutheran Church rezoning

Dear Peggy,

I appreciate all that Wellspring does for the community. My objection is not with Wellspring. My interest is in preserving the residential quality of this neighborhood. First of all, I believe that a rezone of this property to Neighborhood Commercial would be ignoring the City's Comprehensive Plan, which designates this area as medium density residential. Commercial of any kind has long term implications for this neighborhood that I feel are negative. This is a special neighborhood constantly pressed by the commercial development of Jackson Boulevard on the south and Canyon Lake Drive on the north. Throughout my tenure on the Council, I've been a solid supporter of preserving neighborhoods from commercial intrusion of any kind.

In my view, it's not about Wellspring, it's about a rezone, which could bring commercial into a neighborhood that is a haven for seniors who have worked a life time to pay for their homes and young families moving into home ownership for the first time. My support goes for preservation of this unique neighborhood.

Karen Gundersen Olson, Ward 3

From: Peggy Saunders/Steve Manlove [mailto:manlove@rapidnet.com]

Sent: Monday, July 31, 2006 7:54 PM

To: councilgroup@rcgov.org

Subject: FW: Calvary Lutheran Church rezoning

Dear Council Members:

I am the President of the Wellspring Board of Directors and I have been involved with Wellspring since it was founded. I am writing in favor of the proposal to rezone the Calvary Lutheran Church property on Cottonwood Street. There are several issues I would like you to consider as you think about this:

1. Use of the property by Wellspring would result in very little change to the neighborhood. The building would not look different on the outside. The traffic change in the neighborhood would be minimal; indeed there would be far less traffic on Wednesday and Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. There would be no parking congestion at any time. Most Wellspring programming for the proposed site takes place between 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; we need parking for less than 40 cars.

2. I understand the neighbors' concern that rezoning opens the door to less desirable commercial ventures should Wellspring ever sell the property. (Indeed, at the public meetings, several individuals said they supported Wellspring coming into the neighborhood, but opposed rezoning because of who might buy the property if Wellspring ever needed to sell.) Zoning as Office Commercial with Planned

Development Designation, which Wellspring supports, would ensure that the neighborhood would have significant input into potential uses of the land should Wellspring ever need to sell the property.

3. In the ten years of Wellspring's existence, we have never had a complaint from any of the four neighborhoods where we have operated programs. Children attending the Youth and Family Counseling Center (the program which would be housed on the property under discussion) are not dangerous. Youth and families served at the new location are at the low end of the risk continuum: they are students who have been absent from school and have fallen behind (we give them tutoring to catch up, along with counseling), foster children who need help adjusting to a new foster family, youth who have a single parent and are beginning to question parental authority, etc. Children with more serious problems, including youth who exhibit aggressive or violent behavior, are treated in more secure environments at Wellspring's residential and inpatient treatment centers, or referred to other agencies. Almost all of the adolescents in Youth and Family Counseling Center programs would attend public school during the day and come to the Cottonwood Street property after school. All youth would go to their own homes at night.

4. Wellspring serves a major need in Rapid City. All of the Wellspring programs together serve approximately 300 children and their families yearly. The program which would be housed on the property under discussion has an average weekly enrollment of 50 adolescents who come from all across Rapid City. Wellspring has been very successful at helping struggling children turn their lives around and become productive members of our community. We believe the programs we provide strengthen families and keep children in school and out of Court Services and the Juvenile Services Center.

5. I have attended both of the public meetings hosted by Wellspring at Calvary Lutheran Church. A very small percentage of the neighbors attended either meeting (10 people attended the first meeting; 23 attended the second) with many of the same people attending both meetings. In both cases, individuals from the neighborhood made a special effort to speak with me privately to express their support for Wellspring coming into their neighborhood. I am confident that once Wellspring is operating in the area, the rest of the neighborhood will become comfortable and even proud to have us as their neighbor.

Please contact me if I can give you more information. We would love to have you visit our St. James Street facility so we can show who we are.

Stephen P. Manlove, M.D.
President, Wellspring Board of Directors