

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

Backyard for the have-nots is becoming hard to find

On Monday, May 4, Winston-Salem City Council delayed a vote on the rezoning of a daycare in East Winston. That rezoning would allow The Salvation Army to purchase the property and move its Center of Hope for homeless families to 939 Cleveland Ave.

The Salvation Army requested the delay to allow the agency to look into other options. Council has given the agency 60 days to work things out with the area's stakeholders or find another option for its Center of Hope, which is on Trade Street.

Meanwhile, City Council allowed the public hearing to go on. What happened during that public hearing was eye-opening. It appears that residents near the daycare center in East Winston wanted to vent their frustrations about how their community has been treated in the past, as a dumping ground for the have-nots, and they want better.

City Council members chimed in about how they don't know what to do with the have-nots, but they don't want them in their neighborhoods.

Who is speaking for the have-nots, the homeless women and children at the Center of Hope who now must share space with another of The Salvation Army programs in the same building, the re-entry program for federal offenders? Although carefully regulated, this is not the best way to work with either group.

On any given day at The Salvation Army's Center of Hope for homeless families, 50 percent of the residents are children.

The Salvation Army's goal is to quickly rehouse shelter residents into permanent housing and help them improve and stabilize income so that they can make an even greater positive impact on the community.

The Salvation Army found what it needed for sale at 939 Cleveland Ave. It wants to turn it into an estimated 90-bed facility. The Greater Cleveland Christian Church is willing to sell The Salvation Army the property. All that was needed was a rezoning approved by City Council. The Planning Board already approved the rezoning by a 7-to-2 vote.

This issue appears akin to housing discrimination. Just as a family who seeks housing with all the required paperwork is rejected because of who that family is, so has a community rejected The Salvation Army's request because of who it is: an agency that helps the have-nots. Housing discrimination based on familial status is illegal, according to federal law.

At the Council meeting, there was a great deal of talk about homeless shelters, which house unsavory people, according to many at the meeting. The homeless are lazy and are up to no good, if you hear what the public is saying.

But The Salvation Army says the families who live in its shelter are offered 24 hour access to a safe place with three meals each day and essential services such as transportation assistance, clothing, and tutoring and homework help for children. Shelter residents are required to be in the building by 8:30 each evening unless working, attending church or other community meetings.

The facility is supervised 24 hours a day by paid Salvation Army staff. Families receive case management services upon arrival and are referred to the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Intake Center for further programs and services. The Salvation Army's goal is to quickly rehouse shelter residents into permanent housing and help them improve and stabilize income so that they can make an even greater positive impact on our community.

This doesn't sound like an atmosphere that breeds unsavory people.

The Housing Authority and some residents talk about a plan for the area and say that moving the Center of Hope to their area would disrupt the plan. Does the plan include housing discrimination? Does that mean only people with money can move into their neighborhood?

The inference that has been made is that the residents of the Center of Hope need to move into a "better neighborhood." What if the Center of Hope residents could make the Cleveland Avenue area better?

The community should note that The Salvation Army is a Christian-based organization. It begs to wonder what Jesus would do in this situation.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Swift, decisive actions against police applauded

To the Editor:

The Congressional Black Caucus applauds the swift and decisive actions by the Baltimore City State's Attorney in conducting a thorough and independent investigation of the events surrounding the death of Freddie Gray.

This is the first of many steps to begin the process of mending the fractured relationship between law enforcement and the people of the City of Baltimore. Every citizen has a right to due process of law, and we are pleased to see the legal system is working. We continue to call for calm in the weeks and months ahead as we await the outcome of these cases.

U.S. Rep. G. K. Butterfield (NC-01)
Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus

Charges against Baltimore police are encouraging

To the Editor:

We applaud State's Attorney [for Baltimore, Marilyn] Mosby for beginning the process of securing justice for Freddie Gray and his family. This is the kind of accountability that the people of Baltimore have been demanding in response to years of police brutality and abuse.

Like any other community that has been wronged, Baltimore is seeking simple justice and for authorities to seriously investigate the highly problematic and suspicious circumstances of Gray's death.

This common respect for Black lives was not shown in Ferguson after the death of Michael Brown, nor in Chicago after the death of

Rekia Boyd, nor in New York after the death of Eric Garner, nor after the killings of so many people of color at the hands of law enforcement.

And while the State Attorney's decision to file charges against the officers responsible for Freddie Gray's death is encouraging, Baltimore remains mired in systemic issues around its police department, with a police force that has paid \$5.7 million to settle brutality cases over the past four years, and victims forced to keep silent afterward.

We are heartened by today's [Friday, May 1] announcement, which signals a shift — that the protection of brutalized citizens is finally being prioritized over the protection of the police. This is exactly what should happen, and we remain cautiously optimistic as the case moves to trial.

Co-Director Judith Browne Dianis
Advancement Project

Baltimore violence is counterproductive

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc., I extend heartfelt condolences to the family of Freddie Gray and to the residents, families, business owners and civil servants in Baltimore.

The community outcry is valid and can be heard around the globe. However, the violence and destruction that disrupted Baltimore yesterday [Monday, April 27] is counterproductive. It is important to remain peaceful in protest and encourage productive dialogue while we await the findings of the Department of Justice investigation.

The CBCF joins with other community leaders who are committed to exploring solutions that enhance community trust and address the conflicts in modern, urban policing.

A. Shuanise Washington
President and chief executive officer
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
Washington, D.C.

Thanks and kudos, committee says

To the Editor:

The community of Winston-Salem contributed to the universal world of music and international acclaim by having the "Home Town" Sensations, The "5" Royales inducted into the International Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 18, 2015.

Your contributions and input made this event a reality and contribution to the community of Winston-Salem. Thank you. This effort was supported by the Vintage "04" and Friends of the Library (Malloy-Jordan) to make this reality a historical event.

We look forward to your support to establish a scholarship at the N.C.S.A. in music to benefit the future of music and genius. Vintage "04," a community-based organization, and Friends of the Library look forward to your participation in the development of our civilization, locally nationally and internationally. Thank you.

Bobby Ray Wilson
"5" Royales Committee
Vintage "04"



"5" Royales

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our

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