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## Midtown Neighbors' Association

P.O. Box 77112  
Atlanta, GA 30357

August 5, 2007

Atlanta City Council  
55 Trinity Avenue SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Council Members:

We realize the difficult decisions you are facing in the coming months on how to address the homeless issue in the city of Atlanta. This is a tough problem with no easy solutions.

The Midtown Neighbors' Association would like to convey our support of Mayor Franklin, the City of Atlanta and Atlanta City Council in your position to oppose continued funding of the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

As the largest neighborhood in, and a significant tax base for, the City of Atlanta, we want to see our tax dollars going to those projects providing the most positive long-term impact to both Midtown and the City as a whole. We do not see the Peachtree Pine Shelter ever serving that capacity.

Over the years, the Peachtree Pine Shelter has failed to find solutions to address the many issues affecting the homeless and, consequently, the crime which spills out into the surrounding neighborhoods. The negative impact of the shelter on those surrounding neighborhoods has been well documented in the many police reports ranging from car break-ins to home and business burglaries to aggressive panhandling to physical assaults.

The shelter draws these predators into the neighborhoods, then effectively "washes their hands" of the resulting crime increases. The neighborhoods have tried to work with the shelter for years to address these issues and come up with solutions, all in vain. Despite neighborhood efforts, the shelter has failed to act to reduce the criminal activity occurring on, or emanating from, their facility.

We see the only long term solution is one which addresses the wide ranging problems facing the homeless. Continuing to fund entities which turn a blind eye to the entirety of the homeless problem does a disservice not only to the tax paying community providing those funds, but to the homeless community as well. Our tax dollars should go to those programs committed to taking on the task of lowering the homeless population by transitioning them back into society.

Sincerely,

*Elston Collins*

Midtown Neighbors' Association President