



MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

Digest of Peachtree Pine Responses

The MPSA received the following letters in response to our request to write to City Council regarding the funding of the Peachtree Pine shelter.

These do not necessarily reflect the position of the MPSA – we have already established a position on the issue.

#01: YOUR ACTION NEEDED - PEACHTREE PINE

As a long-time resident of Midtown, I am writing to offer not only my support as you confront a difficult decision regarding Peachtree Pine Shelter, but also my perspective.

All of us want to implement a long-term solution to Atlanta's homeless epidemic. All of us identify with the spirit and heart of Peachtree Pine Shelter and its major benefactors, Perkins+Will and Chick-Fil-A. However, we are facing a cross-roads decision about where limited public funds can be best placed to render the greatest return on investment.

Dealing with the homeless is a complex issue driven largely by mental health and substance abuse issues, and is not a matter of simply cramming them in an open dormitory for the night, and handing out free meals. While I appreciate the good intentions of Peachtree Pine Shelter's leaders, we are not making headway in addressing the challenges that plague our homeless and keep them homeless.

Rather than fund stand-alone, disjointed efforts in piecemeal fashion throughout the community, greater effectiveness and efficiency can be made by fully leveraging the successful model offered by the Atlanta Gateway Center and Union Mission. By coordinating resources, the Atlanta Gateway Center and Union Mission are making a real difference, and that is where our funds should be focused.

I ask that you take the courageous position to oppose the allocation of tax dollars for Peachtree Pine, whose side-effects play a significant role in community crime and disorder in the eyes of many residents and business owners. Instead, I urge your support of the homeless by channeling tax dollars to alternative resources that are comprehensive and working.

#02: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I have been a resident of Midtown since 1983, and I have certainly seen some amazing and progressive changes come to this part of Atlanta. The Pine Street Shelter is definitely not one of them. I believe the shelter is an eyesore to the neighborhood and to all of the city of Atlanta. I have had numerous out of town guests pass by the shelter and are amazed the city allows the existence of this horrible establishment. I am convinced it harbors people who conduct criminal activity in Midtown during the day--some of this criminal activity I have been the

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victim of in the past. The Shelter, and the general area around it, are an embarrassment to those who actually live in and around Midtown.

I certainly do not support, under any conditions, MY taxes being spent for the Pine Street Shelter to remain open. The sooner the shelter is closed the safer Midtown will be.

#03: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

Thank you for the wonderful job you're doing representing Midtown. I appreciate your hard work. I write to request that the City Council take a hard look at the City's homeless problem and the solutions that are discussed. As one of the original members of the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance, I am concerned how homeless shelters affect the safety of surrounding neighborhoods. As you know, shelters that just feed and house the homeless without providing any springboard to success only feed a growing problem. Instead of reducing homelessness, these shelters only consolidate homelessness and place a greater burden on their communities.

Case in point, the Peachtree Pine Shelter, so I'm told, only acts to feed and house the homeless without taking into consideration what the homeless do when not at the shelter. Horror story after horror story indicates that during the day, some of the homeless go into our neighborhoods and commit crimes. I certainly can't say that each criminal act is perpetrated by a Peachtree Pine alumnus. However, since Midtown is in such close proximity to the shelter, we do have a larger population of homeless individuals and a disproportionate level of quality of life crimes. Moreover, I keep reading articles about how Peachtree Pine does not care how its current operations impact the surrounding neighborhoods. Their belief that they are doing something noble blinds them from seeing their true impact.

That being the case, I ask that the city weigh the impact the shelter has on its surrounding neighborhoods and their safety versus the good that it is actually doing. I'm not an expert at solving homelessness, but I wanted to point out that my neighborhood and family's safety is put at risk if any charitable service is run without any accountability. I hope the City takes a hard look at whether Peachtree Pine is a necessary good, if run well, or a festering problem. Peachtree Pine may have good intentions, but bad execution.

#04: CITY OF ATLANTA TAX DOLLARS FUNDING PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am a homeowner in Midtown on Greenwood Avenue, off Monroe, overlooking the Home Depot parking lot. I just wanted to confirm that the homeless situation in Midtown does severely impact the quality of life and real estate values in Midtown. We have homeless go to the bathroom in our bushes. We cannot fill up our cars at the gas stations on Ponce without having at least one panhandler approach us for money. Violent crime has increased recently in Midtown and the Highlands.

I realize everyone's reaction to these issues is "not in my neighborhood" and I do not have enough facts to opine on whether other shelters would be better funding

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candidates than Peachtree Pine but the bottom line is this: any continued or increased funding of homeless shelters in Midtown should be accompanied with increased police presence / funding / focus for this area. If you are interested I can show you where they camp and go to the bathroom less than 100 feet from my front porch and I am certain that businesses on Ponce that generate tax dollars in addition to my high property taxes have bigger problems than me.

I trust you all will do your best to address this issue.

#05: PINE STREET SHELTER FUNDING - I DO NOT SUPPORT IT

I have lived in Midtown for almost fifteen years. I have seen several articles and other bits of information recently regarding the upcoming votes and recent discussions regarding continued funding for the Pine Street shelter. Like many Midtown residents, I DO NOT support the use of my/our tax dollars continuing to fund the Pine Street shelter. Homelessness is very unfortunate and there are a lot of needy people. However, based on my experience living in Midtown for the last fifteen years, it is clear to me that the Pine Street shelter is not well managed and not an effective solution to the homeless issue. It is my opinion that the Pine Street shelter has served as an enabler to the homeless problem rather than a solution and this has resulted in significant levels of crime and quality of life issues across Midtown.

There are other shelters in Atlanta that are well managed and have effective substance abuse and mental help programs for the homeless that make a difference in the homeless issue who should receive additional funding – not the Pine Street shelter. Throwing money at an organization that provides some shelter and some food is not a business model for helping people change their homeless situation (even though it may “feel good”), it enables it. Unfortunately, the people who are also harmed by the flaws and poor management at the Pine Street shelter are the very people that are paying the taxes that support it – City of Atlanta residents. There are significant crime and quality of life issues in Midtown as a result of the ineffectiveness and enabling of the Pine Street shelter.

I can understand how emotions can be tugged on such a humanitarian issue. However the reality is that continuing to fund a sub-par organization like the Pine Street shelter does more harm than good to Atlanta’s homeless. The Pine Street shelter has had more than enough time to right size its organization and it hasn’t and as a long-time Midtown resident I am sick of my tax dollars supporting it while I/we are affected by its residual crime and quality of life impact. As two city council representatives who know the problems we face in Midtown, I urge you both to please vote against further support of the Pine Street shelter and share your knowledge with other members of the council so monies can be allocated to more effective homeless organizations.

#06: FUNDING FOR PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I wanted to voice my opinion regarding funding for the Peachtree Pine Shelter. Although I am very sympathetic to the needs of homeless people and fully support the Union Mission and their work with the Atlanta Gateway Center, I am opposed to additional funding for the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

#07: PEACHTREE PINE

I am writing to express my hope that my tax dollars will not support or fund Peachtree Pines further. The organization is not serving its intended community and deserves to be shut down.

The homeless problem is a complex issue driven largely by mental health and substance abuse issues. Peachtree Pines has consistently neglected to address these deeper issues. Instead Peachtree Pines simply crams the homeless in an open and unsafe dormitory for the night, hands out free meals, and lets them wander and cause havoc in our community. Peachtree Pines is not addressing the root cause of homelessness. It is too large, it's poorly managed and there's not enough effort to move people on to self-sufficiency.

I support organizations in our community that effectively support the homeless among us. The Union Mission and their work with the Atlanta Gateway Center is a good example of an effective organization. However I feel strongly that Peachtree Pines is not serving the homeless community. So I hope you will vote to remove the organizations funding and strive to channel the money into an organization that can truly help this vulnerable group.

#08: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

We firmly believe that the Peachtree Pine Shelter is undeserving of any tax dollars (City, State or Federal) and should not receive a single dollar of additional funding from the City of Atlanta. The Peachtree Pine Shelter adversely impacts its immediate surroundings, which are absolutely disgraceful and should be an embarrassment to anyone who lives in this City. The Peachtree Pine Shelter also significantly adversely affects Midtown as a whole and negatively impacts our quality of life on a daily basis.

We strongly urge you to oppose any additional funding to the Peachtree Pine Shelter and instead to explore well-managed solutions to the homeless problem. We will not support any council member who votes in favor of providing additional tax dollars to the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

#09: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER - MIDTOWN ATLANTA

I am a condo homeowner [in Midtown] and pass the Peachtree Pine Shelter each and every morning on my way to work.

Every day from 7:30AM - 8:30AM I observe long lines of homeless individuals waiting for assistance. I know the City Council is very well aware of the increasing tax base for property taxes in this prime area of the city. Union Mission and their work with the Atlanta Gateway Center provides compassionate but well-managed solutions in addressing homeless issues.

As a seven year resident of Midtown Atlanta, I do not want my tax dollars spent to support the Peachtree Pine Shelter. The side effects of this shelter play a

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significant role in community crime and disorder in my eyes and in the eyes of fellow residents and business owners in the Midtown area.

#10: P/P SHELTER

I am writing to urge you not to spend any City of Atlanta tax dollars on the Peachtree/Pine Homeless Shelter.

My neighbors and I live daily in an environment that is pervasively depressing and dangerous due to the shelter's policy of housing men overnight and then turning them loose during the day. Our streets, parks, and private property are teeming with idle grown men who have no place to go and nothing to do. They are aggressive, very destructive to the properties, increasingly pushing the boundary of the laws and dangerous.

I support the efforts of the Gateway Center and other similar homeless facilities, which offer programs and resources of hope and require participation and responsibility from its inhabitants. The Peachtree/Pine Shelter is not helping to change the downtrodden lives of its homeless patrons! And our retailers and residents suffer along with the homeless.

Our streets, parks, and private property are constantly littered with debris. Our parks are used almost solely by homeless loiterers (and drug dealers, pimps, and prostitutes) – the tax-paying residents are too frightened to use them! We endure an inordinate number of street crimes – from public urination and defecation to car and home break-ins and beyond. Friends, family, and people passing through our area are horrified by the environment. Our local retailers deal with constant panhandling, shoplifting, and overuse of the bathrooms that they offer for their employees and paying patrons.

All in all, the situation is **unbearable!** Our property values have nosedived. Future development in this great area of the city has been squelched. Neither the homeless nor the tax-paying residents should have to endure this situation!

Please do not help perpetuate the poor policies of the Peachtree Pine Shelter. Please do not fund them with our tax dollars! They are the source of our problem – they are not a solution.

Let's promote and support homeless facilities that really help our homeless citizens get back on their feet!

#11: VOTE TO REMOVE FUNDING FROM P'TREE PINES

I recently read in the Atlanta Business Chronicle about Peachtree Pines' proposed \$10 million dollar renovation. Given Peachtree Pines abysmal track record with the homeless I urge you to withdraw all support for this organization and remove their tax funding.

Peachtree Pines has not managed to effectively serve the homeless community for many years. I fail to see how a cash infusion or building renovation can cure the mismanagement problems that plague the organization.

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I have lived in the vicinity of Peachtree Pines for many years. Unlike some notables that have visited Peachtree Pines (or purportedly slept there for publicity purposes) I have lived among the homeless and spoke with them as they have solicited at my door. I have passed by the shelter almost daily for the last seven years. This has provided me a unique perspective that many of the individuals speaking out on this issue or voting on this issue do not have. What I have encountered in my discussions and observations is that Peachtree Pines is failing the vulnerable homeless. I hope our community leaders have the courage to stand up and shut this organization down permanently.

Peachtree Pines has failed to address the root problems of homelessness – like the drugs and the psychological problems of many of the homeless. As a result on any given day one only needs to drive by the shelter and see scores of homeless brazenly using drugs outside the shelter. Those with psychological problems are often acting in an aggressive manner. This is not only unwelcoming, but it serves to deter the ‘situational homeless’ (or temporary homeless) from reaching out for support and shelter. It undermines the safety of the homeless and also the safety of the abutting community. Businesses fail under the strain of crime and families leave. As a result everyone loses. And the neighborhood remains a crime infested, hostile and unsafe place for all.

Over the years I have not seen Peachtree Pines make any improvements. The situation has only gotten worse. The proposed new facility cannot begin to address the structural problems plaguing the shelter. These problems start with the general management. As well, the size and scale of the shelter also acts to limit its effectiveness. It creates a ‘homeless ghetto’ which cannot effectively address problems on an individual level or work to mainstream individuals into a functioning healthy community.

Please vote to remove the funding from Peachtree Pines. This act would be the most compassionate move our elected officials can make on behalf of the homeless. Once Peachtree Pines is closed I hope that we can focus on building solutions which actually produce positive and measurable results for the victims of homelessness.

#12: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER - TAX FUNDING

Please receive this email note as my firm support to discontinue the expenditure of any tax dollars to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter. As an active community member and resident of the Old Fourth Ward for the past 6 years, I have watched the Peachtree Pine Shelter flounder in its attempt to meet its well espoused mission to nurture, educate and reestablish Atlanta’s homeless. I believed in the Shelter’s mission during my first years of residency in the area and even went so far as to secure donations from my company to assist its call.

During my tenure as a neighborhood leader, I chaired meetings where the issue of the Shelter surfaced and had to respectfully listen while the Shelter was berated as my neighbors expressed their rightful opinion. Through all of that, I remained hopeful that the Shelter would step up, as it always promised it would, and garnish the controls within its facility and its programs that all agreed were

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needed. Until the last couple of years, I was in support of giving the mission the time, money and opportunity to rise to the occasion. However, enough time has passed. In 6 years, the Old Fourth Ward has made great strides to transition into a more than viably progressive place to live, work and play. Our overall crime rates our down, our property values and contributions to the City tax structure are up.

My neighborhood is seeing the light of day and getting the press, without coercion or contribution, to support its reawakening. If the Old Fourth Ward can make so much progress, with the huge blights that remain a part of our neighborhood, why couldn't the Shelter have also progressed – just a little? I have experienced a complete change of heart in regard to this Shelter and find that the Shelter has been largely wasteful in failing to sort out the complications of the many men that flock to its doors for food, rest and who know what.

Perhaps the mission of the Shelter is too big and they've taken on too much, but such state of affairs is undeniably a product of poor leadership. The impact of Peachtree Pine Shelter plays a significant role in the community crime and disorder and it's time to stop throwing good money after bad. The Shelter is poorly led, not largely misunderstood as its leaders so often convey; so please don't be misread this situation. This is not a request to "remove all the homeless and poor from-our little side-of-the world."

The request of our neighborhoods that do not support Peachtree Pine is to encourage that good tax funds be redirected to missions that actually do public good rather than continue to say "we are trying".

Thank you for time and attention.

#13: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER - PLEASE READ

Please stop any more tax dollars from going to the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I have been robbed by a "resident" of the shelter twice in the last two months. Check the police report for my name if you would like.

Both times the thief was staying there (the first guy showed his ID and said so). The second time I confronted a different individual outside the building with my stolen property in hand. He fled into the building. Police and I followed seconds behind only to be stone walled by the "workers" inside. They all "just started working" and did not see anybody fitting our description (from like 2 seconds earlier).

An officer assisting me who I believe is permanently assigned there by APD (more tax dollars) said that center is lost cause and should not be there. He said at least 8 out of 10 people staying there are strung out on crack or drugs. I am not making this up. I support compassionate but well-managed solutions in order to address homeless issues but dumping more money into the PP Shelter is not the answer. The neighborhood is changing. Don't hurt Atlanta by blindly dumping money into a good intended but poorly thought out exercise.

#14: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I [...] am writing to you to voice my support for closing down the Peachtree Pine Shelter. With more and more people moving into the city, and with tourism and business continuing to expand throughout the Peachtree corridor, the presence of a homeless shelter in this central location will be a source of increasing tension with the surrounding communities, and will do nothing to generate more support for the homeless.

#15: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I would like to respectfully submit my concerns about continuing to provide tax dollars to support the Peachtree Pine shelter in Atlanta. I am a current resident of Midtown and have been for 25 years. The crime in Midtown continues to increase and the undesirable walking traffic through the Midtown neighborhood continues to increase year over year. I have spoken to a number of these homeless people as they approach my home and ask for money and food. They are from out of town or regular locals coming from the Peachtree Pine shelter.

Also, I cannot keep any furniture or items on my front porch as they continue to disappear. I have actually seen homeless people walking down the street with one of my rocking chairs on their back.....

I would think the high tax dollars received from the in town neighborhoods and businesses would aid in the decision making process to keep these areas as clean and free from crime as possible. If the city of Atlanta want to keep people moving into the city and into the higher home value areas in the city to increase its tax base and to make Midtown become the premier area of the city for shopping and dining you would want to stop funding this facility.

Thanks for your consideration.

#16: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

This letter is to ask that you vote not to spend any City of Atlanta tax money on the Peachtree/Pine Homeless Shelter. Any trip down the streets that border the shelter will convince you that this shelter is not beneficial to the people it purports to aid, the neighborhood, or the city of Atlanta.

Feeding the homeless during the day and warehousing them at night is a recipe for disaster and failure. These people need so much more than meals. They need a way to end the cycle of living on the streets, from one soup kitchen to the next. The Peachtree/Pine shelter does nothing to address the reasons the people are homeless. Lack of marketable skills, drug abuse, and mental illness must be focused on and dealt with to allow those on the streets to seek meaningful employment and to give them a way off the streets. Peachtree/Pine simply attracts more homeless to walk the streets around the shelter and creates an environment that is unhealthy for them and the residents of this city.

Council should not be swayed by those who say being against this shelter is being against the homeless. Go look at those people lying on the sidewalks and

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inside doorways along Courtland. It is a pitiful sight to behold and it is obvious the needs of these people are not being met. It's time to get the homeless to centers that provide mentoring, a safe place to stay, and guidance on how to get medical treatment. Such help can be found at the Gateway Center.

That is what should receive our help and tax dollars. It is time to get Peachtree/Pine off the street.

#17: STOP CITY OF ATLANTA TAX DOLLARS FROM GOING TO THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER.

We are at a crossroads with this issue!

I STRONGLY believe that tax dollars should not go to fund this shelter – whose side-effects play a significant role in community crime and disorder in my experience living here in Midtown for 17 years!

There is no "rehab" going on...it's a cesspool for crime and deviant behavior.

I find it appalling that "supporters" for funding don't even live in the neighborhood...maybe they should spend an evening in Midtown and watch what spills out of that shelter and swarms the neighborhood to harass, rob and steal from the residents here and engage in other criminal activities.

You MUST put an end to this...what breeds at this shelter poses a significant danger to the residents of this neighborhood and thus a liability to the city.

Shut this place down...it is doing no good - reinvest the efforts to the Union Mission.

Thank you for your support with this position.

#18: PEACHTREE/PINE STREET SHELTER

I am writing to request that you not to spend any City of Atlanta tax dollars on the Peachtree/Pine Homeless Shelter.

As a resident of the Old Fourth Ward / Renaissance Park area, I am living in a dangerous and crime ridden area due to the shelter's policy of housing men overnight and then turning them loose during the day. Our streets, parks, and private property are filled with idle grown men who have no place to go and nothing to do.

The Peachtree/Pine Shelter is not helping to change the downtrodden lives of its homeless patrons! And our retailers and residents suffer along with the homeless. I support the efforts of the Gateway Center and other similar homeless facilities, which offer programs and resources of hope and require participation and responsibility from its inhabitants.

Our streets, parks, and private property are constantly littered with debris. Our parks are used almost solely by homeless loiterers (and drug dealers, pimps, and prostitutes) – the tax-paying residents are too frightened to use them! We endure

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an inordinate number of street crimes – from public urination and defecation to car and home break-ins and beyond.

Our property values have gone down. Future development in this great area of the city has been next to nonexistent due to the Peachtree/Pine Street Shelter.

Please do not support the poor policies of the Peachtree/Pine Street Shelter
Please do not fund them with our tax dollars!

#19: OPPOSITION TO PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER (METRO ATLANTA TASK FORCE FOR THE HOMELESS)

I am a taxpayer and a longtime Midtown Atlanta homeowner. I beg my representatives to stop any public funding for the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless--a cause that does not achieve its purported aims and an operation that is detrimental to our community's quality of life.

Because of the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, the untreated mentally ill and the criminals between incarcerations have overrun our neighborhood and other neighborhoods adjacent to the facility. We constantly see loitering, littering, public urination and defecation (apparently the organization provides inadequate restroom facilities), aggressive panhandling, shoplifting, dumped purses and computer bags, and drug smoking on our lawns. I expect our representatives to end any public funding for this problem.

I would prefer to see public funding used to compensate our police officers. My top priority for funding would be to improve and expand police services. Our city needs to fight crime, not to attract it. Instead, the Peachtree-Pine shelter organization diverts police resources and brings crime and filth to the doorsteps of Midtown homes and businesses and Crawford Long Hospital. Anita Beatty has had quite a few years of opportunity to demonstrate to Atlanta that she and her organization could be a good neighbor, and she has taken that opportunity to prove the opposite.

Any public funding to address entrenched social problems should go to organizations such as the Atlanta Union Mission, with its record of actually helping the homeless, and the Gateway Center, with its excellent resources. The Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless does not appear to actually deliver social services.

#20: THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

The issue regarding the homeless and the Peachtree Pine Shelter will be very difficult for you, I am sure. But I live at Central Park Lofts. I have lived here for 5 years. My windows look down on the intersection of Central Park Place and Pine Street. And I work from home many days. When I moved in I thought it was cool and edgy to live down here. There was always action at the intersection and in the park. Today, I view it as a blight on the neighborhood. There are way more homeless in the park and walking the streets than there used to be. Due increased community action, there is a greater police presence in the area, which is great. Now they are more like lazy teenagers, than panhandlers and addicts.

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They are an eyesore, they lay around all day, and they are sneakier with their drug use.

And now on to the bigger problem:

The Peachtree Pine Shelter, the great enabler of the inner city. It is easy for me to judge. I probably don't have all the information that I need. But if the "Tri-J", which is in place to evaluate all metro shelters, says they are the worst of the bunch, do they deserve a raise? What do Perkins+Will and Chick-Fil-A do with poor performers? We all know the answer to that. They surely do not get an extra \$10 million to "get it together." It is easy for other council members to support the idea of funding for this project. They and their constituents don't see the problem everyday. Felicia Moore would feel a lot different if all these people were loitering around on Howell Mill Rd. I am not against helping the homeless. The facility is old and the Management is poor. The dependence rate on the facility continues. We must stop the circle. What do you think the top ten performing facilities would do If you gave them each \$1 million? My first guess is that they would backflips.

Reward the best. Don't enable the worst.

#21: PEACHTREE & PINE SHELTER

I am writing in reference to the Peachtree Pine "shelter". This places needs to be shut down; this should be fairly obvious and it's long overdue.

I urge that you take a walk through that area – not with a crowd of media nor with any kind of security – but just take a walk down Pine Street at any time of the day by yourself. Make sure you stroll through Renaissance Park . IT IS NOT SAFE. At the very least it's incredibly intimidating; at its worst it's extremely dangerous. It is an embarrassment; a tragedy and really quite a joke. How can a shelter such as this operate?

I don't even live in the immediate area – I live in Edgewood , but the effects from this shelter are felt by far more than the immediate areas. I have driven through that way many times over the years. The roads are often blocked; trash is strewn everywhere; I have had people beating on my windows when stopped at the traffic lights, and objects have been thrown at me as I passed. I used to patronize some of the businesses on Piedmont – O'Terrill's and the shopping center near that. I am very reluctant to do so now – I just don't need the frustration and fear to walk to my car after dark; I don't need to be accosted when I leave Walgreen's.

I believe that we need to do all we can to help the poor, the homeless, and those with mental and substance abuse problems. What that shelter is doing is NOT helping. Ask how many people feel safe even staying there. The government should most certainly not support this in anyway, shape, or form. It should be condemned and the incredibly arrogant woman that runs it, arrested.

Mayor Franklin has it right with the Gateway Center. The corporations that support this shelter should be supporting something with a coherent plan for enabling these people to change their situation.

#22: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you after reading the article about the Peachtree Pine shelter and the potential of additional funding. I am appalled that the city council allows this atrocity to continue. I have lived in the Central Park Lofts at the corner of Central Park Place and Angier across from Central Park for 3 years. It is obvious that no one on this council has actually walked around Central Park or nearby Renaissance Park during the day much less after dark. The parks are beautiful but totally unusable by the residents in the area because of the people who flood out of the Peachtree Pine shelter. I am one mile from Piedmont Park and walk there every day. I have now armed myself with mace because of the numerous encounters I have experienced while simply trying to get some healthy exercise. I have been followed, pushed, spit on, and had trash thrown at because I was approached by these people panhandling and refused to give them money (like I would carry money while I am out running). All of these incidents happened in broad daylight. Of the entire one mile run, I have never had any issues except when passing Central Park which I have to do to get to Piedmont Park.

My teenage daughter and I were harassed on multiple occasions while trying to play tennis there as well. We both were nervous about our safety so now we cannot even enjoy the park that is right across the street from our condo. This happened during the day as well.

I love to attend Screen on the Green and would love to walk there and back but would NEVER consider walking past Central Park after dark on the way back. I do not think I would make it by without being mugged.

As far as Renaissance Park, that is on my walking path to the Publix at the corner of North and Piedmont. I have also experienced similar harassment having been frightened of a mugging in broad daylight. I think it ridiculous that I cannot even walk to and from neighborhood restaurants and stores without fearing for my life during the day much less at night.

I have seen explicit sexual conduct, crack and marijuana use as well as needles littering both parks. Once the shelter lets the people out, they just loiter around all day long until their evening meal begging, harassing and worse. This shelter does nothing more than feed and provide a place for these people which enables them to just hang around all day long looking for trouble to get into. Over the 3 years, it has gotten worse.

My brother was homeless before and I am very compassionate to the problems associated with that condition, however, I see nothing at this shelter that is being done to rehabilitate or empower these people. I have been a volunteer at Nicholas House which I think sets a new standard for dealing with the homeless situation. That is where your money should go, not to Peachtree Pine.

#23: FW: PEACHTREE PINE HOMELESS SHELTER NEEDS TO GO

I have owned my home at +++ McGill Park condominiums for over a year now, within walking distance to the Peachtree Pine Homeless Shelter. It's time to relocate the homeless shelter to a facility other than the one that currently occupies such valuable

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property, and is ultimately preventing the much needed investment and improvements needed in the area. The crime is out of control (numerous car break-ins, home invasions, physical confrontations and the like) to the point I am afraid to walk outside my home at night (and even during the day anywhere near the shelter.) I have friends that live on Renaissance Parkway, and they can't even get out of their cars to go into their homes without someone approaching them for money, or worse yet, finding them asleep on their doorsteps in the morning.

I do believe there is a place for the type of facility and services the shelter provides, but the current location is simply no longer appropriate... would you want to locate such a facility next door to the Fox theatre or next door to the Governor's mansion? How do you think that would impact tourism and future development?

I have been excited to see the great strides which have been made at cleaning up Peachtree Street between the Fox Theatre and the High Museum, and bringing new investment and residences to the area. I would very much like to see similar improvement in the areas between North Ave. and downtown. I do not feel this is possible as long as this facility remains where it is.

Now is the time to look for an alternative location, which can provide the needed services without holding back the city's continued improvement south of the Fox theatre. I encourage you to consider alternative locations for the facility rather than allowing \$10,000,000 worth of "improvements" to a location that clearly needs to be torn down for the good of the surrounding community.

#24: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

This letter is to ask that you vote not to spend any City of Atlanta tax money on the Peachtree/Pine Homeless Shelter. Any trip down the streets that border the shelter will convince you that this shelter is not beneficial to the people it purports to aid, the neighborhood, or the city of Atlanta.

Feeding the homeless during the day and warehousing them at night is a recipe for disaster and failure. These people need so much more than meals. They need a way to end the cycle of living on the streets, from one soup kitchen to the next. The Peachtree/Pine shelter does nothing to address the reasons the people are homeless.

Lack of marketable skills, drug abuse, and mental illness must be focused on and dealt with to allow those on the streets to seek meaningful employment and to give them a way off the streets. Peachtree/Pine simply attracts more homeless to walk the streets around the shelter and creates an environment that is unhealthy for them and the residents of this city.

Council should not be swayed by those who say being against this shelter is being against the homeless. Go look at those people lying on the sidewalks and inside doorways along Courtland. It is a pitiful sight to behold and it is obvious the needs of these people are not being met. It's time to get the homeless to centers that provide mentoring, a safe place to stay, and guidance on how to get medical treatment. Such help can be found at the Gateway Center. That is what should receive our help and tax dollars. It is time to get Peachtree/Pine off the street.

#25: PEACHTREE PINE

I would like to respectfully submit my concerns about continuing to provide tax dollars to support the Peachtree Pine shelter in Atlanta. I am a current resident of Midtown and have been for 25 years. The crime in Midtown continues to increase and the undesirable walking traffic through the Midtown neighborhood continues to increase year over year. I have spoken to a number of these homeless people as they approach my home and ask for money and food. They are from out of town or regular locals coming from the Peachtree Pine shelter.

Also, I cannot keep any furniture or items on my front porch as they continue to disappear. I have actually seen homeless people walking down the street with one of my rocking chairs on their back.....

I would think the high tax dollars received from the in town neighborhoods and businesses would aid in the decision making process to keep these areas as clean and free from crime as possible. If the city of Atlanta want to keep people moving into the city and into the higher home value areas in the city to increase its tax base and to make Midtown become the premier area of the city for shopping and dining you would want to stop funding this facility.

#26: STOP CITY OF ATLANTA TAX DOLLARS FROM GOING TO THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER.

We are at a crossroads with this issue!

I STRONGLY believe that tax dollars should not go to fund this shelter – whose side-effects play a significant role in community crime and disorder in my experience living here in Midtown for 17 years!

There is no "rehab" going on...it's a cesspool for crime and deviant behavior.

I find it appalling that "supporters" for funding don't even live in the neighborhood...maybe they should spend an evening in Midtown and watch what spills out of that shelter and swarms the neighborhood to harass, rob and steal from the residents here and engage in other criminal activities.

You MUST put an end to this...what breeds at this shelter poses a significant danger to the residents of this neighborhood and thus a liability to the city.

Shut this place down...it is doing no good - reinvest the efforts to the Union Mission.

#27: PEACHTREE/PINE STREET SHELTER

I am writing to request that you not to spend any City of Atlanta tax dollars on the Peachtree/Pine Homeless Shelter.

As a resident of the Old Fourth Ward / Renaissance Park area, I am living in a dangerous and crime ridden area due to the shelter's policy of housing men

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overnight and then turning them loose during the day. Our streets, parks, and private property are filled with idle grown men who have no place to go and nothing to do.

The Peachtree/Pine Shelter is not helping to change the downtrodden lives of its homeless patrons! And our retailers and residents suffer along with the homeless. I support the efforts of the Gateway Center and other similar homeless facilities, which offer programs and resources of hope and require participation and responsibility from its inhabitants.

Our streets, parks, and private property are constantly littered with debris. Our parks are used almost solely by homeless loiterers (and drug dealers, pimps, and prostitutes) – the tax-paying residents are too frightened to use them! We endure an inordinate number of street crimes – from public urination and defecation to car and home break-ins and beyond.

Our property values have gone down. Future development in this great area of the city has been next to nonexistent due to the Peachtree/Pine Street Shelter.

Please do not support the poor policies of the Peachtree/Pine Street Shelter
Please do not fund them with our tax dollars!

#28: THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

The issue regarding the homeless and the Peachtree Pine Shelter will be very difficult for you, I am sure. But I live at Central Park Lofts. I have lived here for 5 years. My windows look down on the intersection of Central Park Place and Pine Street. And I work from home many days. When I moved in I thought it was cool and edgy to live down here. There was always action in the intersection and the park. Today, I view it as a blight on the neighborhood. There are far more homeless in the park and walking the streets than there used to be. Due increased community action, there is a greater police presence in the area, which is great. Now they are more like lazy teenagers, than panhandlers and addicts. They are an eyesore, they lay around all day, and they are sneakier with their drug use.

And now on to the bigger problem:

The Peachtree Pine Shelter, the great enabler of the inner city. It is easy for me to judge. I probably don't have all the information that I need. But if the "Tri-J", which is in place to evaluate all metro shelters, says they are the worst of the bunch, do they deserve a raise? What do Perkins+Will and Chick-Fil-A Do with poor performers? We all know the answer to that. They surely do not get an extra \$10 million to "get it together." It is easy for other council members to support the idea of funding for this project. They and their constituents don't see the problem everyday. Felicia Moore would feel a lot different if all these people were loitering around on Howell Mill Rd. I am not against helping the homeless. The facility is poor old Management. The dependence rate on the facility continues. We must stop the circle. What do you think the top ten performing facilities would do if you gave them each \$1 million? My first guess is backflips.

#29: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you after reading the article about the Peachtree Pine shelter and the potential of additional funding. I am appalled that the city council allows this atrocity to continue. I have lived in the Central Park Lofts at the corner of Central Park Place and Angier across from Central Park for 3 years. It is obvious that no one on this council has actually walked around Central Park or nearby Renaissance Park during the day much less after dark. The parks are beautiful but totally unusable by the residents in the area because of the people who flood out of the Peachtree Pine shelter. I am one mile from Piedmont Park and walk there every day. I have now armed myself with mace because of the numerous encounters I have experienced while simply trying to get some healthy exercise. I have been followed, pushed, spit on, and had trash thrown at because I was approached by these people panhandling and refused to give them money (like I would carry money while I am out running). All of these incidents happened in broad daylight. Of the entire one mile run, I have never had any issues except when passing Central Park which I have to do to get to Piedmont Park.

My teenage daughter and I were harassed on multiple occasions while trying to play tennis there as well. We both were nervous about our safety so now we cannot even enjoy the park that is right across the street from our condo. This happened during the day as well.

I love to attend Screen on the Green and would love to walk there and back but would NEVER consider walking past that park after dark on the way back. I do not think I would make it by without being mugged.

As far as Renaissance Park, that is on my walking path to the Publix at the corner of North and Piedmont. I have also experienced similar harassment having been frightened of a mugging in broad daylight. I think it ridiculous that I cannot even walk to and from neighborhood restaurants and stores without fearing for my life during the day much less at night.

I have seen explicit sexual conduct, crack and marijuana use as well as needles littering both parks. Once the shelter lets the people out, they just loiter around all day long until their evening meal begging, harassing and worse. This shelter does nothing more than feed and provide a place for these people which enables them to just hang around all day long looking for trouble to get into. Over the 3 years, it has gotten worse.

My brother was homeless before and I am very compassionate to the problems associated with that condition, however, I see nothing at this shelter that is being done to rehabilitate or empower these people. I have been a volunteer at Nicholas House which I think sets a new standard for dealing with the homeless situation. That is where your money should go, not to Peachtree Pine.

#30: PEACHTREE & PINE SHELTER

I am writing in reference to the Peachtree Pine "shelter". This place needs to be shut down; this should be fairly obvious and it's long overdue.

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I urge that you take a walk through that area – not with a crowd of media nor with any kind of security – but just take a walk down Pine Street at any time of the day by yourself. Make sure you stroll through Renaissance Park . IT IS NOT SAFE. At the very least it's incredibly intimidating; at its worst it's extremely dangerous. It is an embarrassment; a tragedy and really quite a joke. How can a shelter such as this operate?

I don't even live in the immediate area – I live in Edgewood , but the effects from this shelter are felt by far more than the immediate areas. I have driven through that way many times over the years. The roads are often blocked; trash is strewn everywhere; I have had people beating on my windows when stopped at the traffic lights, and objects have been thrown at me as I passed. I used to patronize some of the businesses on Piedmont – O'Terrill's and the shopping center near that. I am very reluctant to do so now – I just don't need the frustration and fear to walk to my car after dark; I don't need to be accosted when I leave Walgreen's.

I believe that we need to do all we can to help the poor, the homeless, and those with mental and substance abuse problems. What that shelter is doing is NOT helping. Ask how many people feel safe even staying there. The government should most certainly not support this in anyway, shape, or form. It should be condemned and the incredibly arrogant woman that runs it, arrested.

Mayor Franklin has it right with the Gateway Center. The corporations that support this shelter should be supporting something with a coherent plan for enabling these people to change their situation.

#31: PEACHTREE PINE HOMELESS SHELTER NEEDS TO GO

I have owned my home at 409 McGill Park condominiums for over a year now, within walking distance to the Peachtree Pine Homeless Shelter. It's time to relocate the homeless shelter to a facility other than the one that currently occupies such valuable property, and is ultimately preventing the much needed investment and improvements needed in the area. The crime is out of control (numerous car break-ins, home invasions, physical confrontations and the like) to the point I am afraid to walk outside my home at night (and even during the day anywhere near the shelter.) I have friends that live on Renaissance Parkway, and they can't even get out of their cars to go into their homes without someone approaching them for money, or worse yet, finding them asleep on their doorsteps in the morning.

I do believe there is a place for the type of facility and services the shelter provides, but the current location is simply no longer appropriate... would you want to locate such a facility next door to the Fox theatre or next door to the Governor's mansion? How do you think that would impact tourism and future development?

I have been excited to see the great strides which have been made at cleaning up Peachtree Street between the Fox Theatre and the High Museum, and bringing new investment and residences to the area. I would very much like to

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see similar improvement in the areas between North Ave. and downtown. I do not feel this is possible as long as this facility remains where it is.

Now is the time to look for an alternative location, which can provide the needed services without holding back the city's continued improvement south of the Fox theatre. I encourage you to consider alternative locations for the facility rather than allowing \$10,000,000 worth of "improvements" to a location that clearly needs to be torn down for the good of the surrounding community.

#32: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER - ATLANTA, GA

I've lived on Renaissance Parkway for the past nine years. I'm urging the two of you and your fellow City of Atlanta council members to vote NO to any further funding of the Peachtree Pine Shelter at the July 31st CDHRC meeting, and the August 20th City Council meeting. This Shelter is a waste of tax dollars that brings crime and drugs to our area and it must be stopped. While the intentions of Peachtree Pine may be good the results are far from it. Feeding homeless people and then releasing them to the streets without constructive programs to mold them into productive citizens does not help anyone, it only exacerbates the problems in our community. The City of Atlanta should not be using citizens' tax dollars to fund and encourage the irresponsible lifestyle of criminals and druggies to reign on our streets.

I often see individuals from Peachtree Pine Shelter dealing drugs in broad daylight. I no longer take MARTA anymore because I have been threatened too many times while walking to the train station by those who frequent the Shelter. A quick stroll to Publix almost always results in someone harassing me for change. When I decline their request I typically get degraded or threatened. My neighbors and I should not be forced to put up with harassment from individuals benefiting from programs subsidized by our tax dollars. The people living off of Peachtree Pine Shelter handouts have no concern for this neighborhood or the residents. I watch them throw trash and food scraps on the sidewalks when there are receptacles literally five feet from where they are sitting. The walkways around here are littered with garbage and these people are destroying our streets. During the day Shelter residents flock to Renaissance Park which has been their drug haven for years. I no longer visit the Park for concerns of my safety. The last time I was there it smelled of urine and I saw a homeless man lying on a blanket under a bush smoking crack.

The environment in this neighborhood has hurt our property values and is not conducive to attracting businesses that would help the area thrive like other parts of Atlanta. Restaurants struggle and many fail primarily because people who live outside of the CAN/Midtown area do not want to come here to spend money. They know the reputation of our neighborhood and know they will be harassed or worse become victims of a crime. Even I get in my car and drive elsewhere rather than walk up the block to a local restaurant at night because the streets are not safe. Publix has had to hire a security guard to stand at the door for the purpose of keeping away panhandlers. Now the recipients of Peachtree Pine have moved to the entrances of Walgreens and the US Post Office asking shoppers for change. It's absolutely ridiculous the City of Atlanta Council would continue to fund a program that has such a negative impact on this community and does nothing to better the lives of the homeless.

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I suggest "The Task Force For 'Keeping You' Homeless" move Peachtree Pine Shelter to the neighborhoods of Anita Beatty, Councilwoman Felicia Moore, Truett Cathy (Chick-Fil-A), and Willard Lariscy (Perkins+Will). I'm sure CAN/Midtown will be happy to provide the busses to move the criminals and druggies to these new locations. I know I will be happy to donate to relocate this "program" away from my home. If Peachtree Pine is as beneficial as these people would lead others to believe I'm positive their neighbors and the constituents of District 9 would be pleased to welcome similar shelters to their communities.

I have no doubt the Task Force, Councilwoman Moore, Chick-Fil-A, and Perkins+Will have good intentions. I'm sure they all go to bed at night believing they have done well for our society, but in reality their actions are very misguided. I'm sure you have heard the saying, "Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish and you have fed him for a lifetime". Well, Peachtree Pine is giving food and teaching nothing except a life of irresponsibility which ultimately leads to drugs and crime. Homeless people need strict structured programs to help them change their lives for the better. Free handouts alone are not the way to rehabilitate. Meals and shelter should be given as a carrot for good citizenship. All those benefiting from Peachtree Pine Shelter must be involved in full-time education, jobs, and volunteer programs that teach them to give back as a constructive member of society. This is the way to rehabilitate. Instead, Peachtree Pine releases the homeless to roam our streets only to return to the Shelter for food in between their drug highs and criminal activities. Peachtree Pine does nothing to help the homeless issue and is far from being a solution.

Things have only become worse in the nine years I've lived here and my hopes of these streets turning for the better have just about diminished thanks in large part to the existence of Peachtree Pine Shelter. The City of Atlanta, Chick-Fil-A, and Perkins+Will are facilitating delinquents to roam our streets and terrorize our neighborhood. Those backing this Shelter propagate the unsafe conditions of our neighborhood and they should be held responsible for the actions of the criminals they support. In essence the funding of Peachtree Pine Shelter equates to enabling a criminal organization of street thugs in our community. Those who subsidize these activities are guilty for the reckless funding of a program that knowingly perpetuates illegal activities because they are providing no moral boundaries to the recipients of their handouts. Their actions are destroying our community and threatening the well-being of the residents in this area. I suspect it's a matter of time before these financiers are met with legal action for their negligent behavior.

I urge the City Council to vote NO to any further funding of Peachtree Pine Shelter and give back this neighborhood to the residents who want to make CAN/Midtown a better place to live and do business.

#33: PINE STREET HOMELESS SHELTER

As a native Atlantan, who has lived in the community near the Pine Street shelter for several years, and whose father grew up in public housing, I realize that the

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issues of poverty and homelessness must be dealt with compassionately. At the same time, I have to acknowledge that the Pine Street shelter is a tremendously negative impact on my community. The shelter is so large, that the sheer number of homeless people in the surrounding area is overwhelming us. We have to deal most frequently with car break-ins and petty vandalism. In addition, it is difficult to walk to Marta without getting asked, sometimes multiple times, for money. Renaissance park can be frightening, even with the near constant police presence, because of the large number of people camping around the paths. It is not uncommon to see a crowd of a hundred or more vagrants congregating near the shelter. We have even had problems with vagrants defecating on our property.

Please do something to help limit the impact of this shelter on our community.

#34: PLEASE STOP FUNDING PEACHTREE AND PINE SHELTER

I live in Midtown on Monroe Circle and own a business employing 11 Midtown located [in 700 block of] Peachtree.

The quality of live of my family and employees are negatively affected by this shelter. I am tired of having to find a way to explain to my daughters' ages 7 and 3 and employees walking to their cars after work "how it works". Get your John at Boulevard and Ponce (3 blocks from our house), score drugs in Pine Street Park (see it getting off the interstate) Pick up dinner at the Pine Street Shelter (3 blocks from office).

I am sure the shelter helps someone but is it worth the negative affects on an entire area? Is the shelter helping or warehousing? In the 17 years I have lived here I have not noticed a change. If it is not helping maybe another organization can.

#35: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am a resident of Midtown and I oppose any additional funding of the Peachtree Pine Street Shelter. I am sensitive to the needs of the homeless community, but I donate my time and money to the Gateway Center.

Despite many years of operation, and despite community pressure over the years, the already well-funded Peachtree Pine shelter still has not implemented effective programs, practices, or even sustainable plans to adequately address the deeper issues driving homelessness. It has only demonstrated the ability to warehouse Atlanta's street people rather than in any way promote self-sufficiency or even a meaningful existence for Atlanta's homeless citizens. As a result, Peachtree Pine generates intense pressure on our woefully-limited public safety resources, thereby negatively affecting the quality of life in the greater community.

The Peachtree Pine shelter has a negative impact on the greater community. It is unsafe. I am scared to drive down Pine Street because residents of the shelter often congregate in the street and approach my car. It is evident that many of the residents are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs. The homeless population served by the shelter takes over local streets and parks, making it unsafe for other tax-paying citizens to safely use these public areas. I have 3 young children and, out of fear for their safety as well as my own, I will not even drive by

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the shelter with them in the car. As I mentioned, I have observed homeless people accosting drivers of cars, fighting, urinating in public, and sleeping in the outdoor areas around the shelter.

Thus, I urge you not to give any additional public funds to the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

#36: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER - CLOSE IT DOWN PLEASE

I am a resident of Midtown on 7th Street, just a short distance from the Peachtree Pine shelter, and several others like it in the area. We have experienced thefts directly tied to those living in the Peachtree Pine shelter...my neighbor has chased a thief all the way back to the shelter, and even went inside. It was "disgusting and filled with crack/drug users". The police confirmed that most of the shelter-goers are drug addicts, and they expressed their desire for the place to be shut down, as well. I understand the homeless issue is a difficult one, however, I do not want good money thrown after bad - why should tax dollars go to house drug addicts and criminals who are not otherwise being detained, prosecuted or rehabilitated? It is quite clear this shelter sustains an undesirable element in our neighborhood with theft, drugs and a threat to public safety. I would venture to say most, if not all, residents in Midtown - the most frequent victims of these crimes - would advocate shutting the shelter down.... and would oppose any funding to keep it operating. I certainly oppose further funding.

I suppose once this one is shut down, there'll be a surge of crime in the area as all of the shelter-goers are back on the street in mass...then they would eventually find another shelter, and similar problems would surface there. Just 'moving the problem around' won't solve the core homeless issues....but having a shelter in place for an extended period of time means the surrounding community suffers. Perhaps moving them frequently will help reduce the 'community of crime' from taking root.

#37: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to express my concern about the Peachtree Pine Shelter. Please do not recommend any further public funds for this shelter. As a Midtown resident, I am extremely concerned about the crime in my neighborhood as a result of this shelter.

#38: TAX DOLLARS SHOULD NOT GO TO FUND THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I live at 830 Myrtle Street, NE and long time resident of Midtown neighborhoods (Midtown, Ansley etc.) - I do not want tax dollars to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter. It is time to clean up Midtown - crime is creeping back up and let's take this opportunity to do something to create a positive change -

#39: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I urge you to stop any further tax dollars from supporting the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The continuance of this funding adds to the quality of life issues that continue to bring down Midtown.

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The homeless population near our home (Mayfair Renaissance) has dramatically increased over the last three years.

Just look at the situation across from City Hall East. The homeless have created a situation there that has stopped my wife, and everyone we know from using that shopping center.

This example is a look into the future for Midtown if the funding continues for this shelter.

Additionally, we know more can be done by police to create an atmosphere of safety, which does not currently exist.

Midtown and Buckhead are at a crossroads, with great things on the horizon. With the current situation left unchecked, it will be difficult for any of the proposed developments to market their properties.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

#40: IT HAS TO STOP

Please stop enabling the most downtrodden of people from getting help they actually need. The Pine Street Shelter is a disaster. It is a disaster for the resident's of Old Fourth Ward, local businesses, the children of CJ Hill elementary (hordes of people in the park adjacent to the school), and in fact a disaster for the very people it is intending to help.

Good intentions are not enough. Fiery rhetoric is not a defense. There are some worthy and progressive programs in Atlanta to address the homeless issue. They are all worthy of support. Having a dumping ground that has become a cesspool is not acceptable.

Please, as a taxpayer and a resident of the area I implore you, please do not allow any more funding for this failure.

#41: FUNDING TO THE PINE STREET SHELTER

I know homelessness is a complicated issue and I don't purport to have the right answers but I know that providing tax dollar to the folks in charge of the Pine Street Shelter isn't the answer we should be looking for.

As a Penn Ave resident and St Luke's Episcopal Church member I see every day the results of the funding they now receive from a variety of sources. Their management group and board of directors know their current level of resources and their current capacity for service. But, they never have honored their current clients with appropriate levels of service . . . they try to be all things to all who appear at their door. I understand and appreciate and share the compassion of the organization but the reality of resources has never entered into their thought process. Management discipline to handle what is reasonable all the while working for expanded levels of resource seems to never have been part of their

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business model. Hence the folks they want to help seldom really get the help they need.

They have had years to try and deal with their overcrowding, "hanging out" and lack of productive activity issues and the major public and client safety problem to which they all contribute. My view is that any additional tax payer funding will simply be absorbed into a failed model for helping the population of men, women and children that call our city streets, parks and open spaces home.

Please vote directly against any action to fund the Pine Street Shelter and speak out for fresh ideas and initiatives to find an approach that will inspire new participants to enter the scene.

Thanks for your consideration of my thoughts and those of my Midtown neighbors and my fellow St Luke's parishioners,

#42: [NO SUBJECT]

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter. The quality of life in the Central Atlanta and Midtown areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, and our public safety.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#43: [NO SUBJECT]

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter. While I applaud the efforts and commitment of the Task Force for the Homeless, the effect that the shelter has on the surrounding neighborhood is undeniable. While I strongly support the provision of services to the homeless, the Shelter's unwillingness to work with the City, and with the neighborhood to address various problems makes it impossible for me to continue to support their position in the neighborhood.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta and Midtown areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed at the Pine Street Shelter. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, and our public safety.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#44: FUNDING PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you regarding the issue of tax dollars being given to support the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I am opposed to City Council granting any funds to this shelter and I am in favor of the city of Atlanta and Fulton County requiring the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to step-up their responsibility and accountability in this area.

I live at Central Park Lofts and experience on a day-to-day basis the problems that have ensued with the individuals who are using the shelter as their permanent home. I never leave my home without several plastic bags for picking up litter and garbage on a walk around my building or through Central Park . I never fail to return with less than 3 or 4 bags filled to the brim and I have not managed to pick up enough to make a dent in what remains.

People begin to congregate in the park in early morning from the direction of the shelter. They loiter on the hill or around the tennis courts in large clusters most of the day and into the evening. I have observed the adults approaching children who are on their way to C. W. Hill Elementary School and I have seen adults consuming alcohol, gambling, soliciting sex, dealing in drugs, arguing, using abusive language and using the park as their public toilet. Several times I have noticed people using the playground equipment for sleeping the day away. Their presence is threatening, unsanitary and toxic to the neighborhood's sense of community.

The situation has steadily worsened and has caused property for sale in our building to be very difficult once a potential buyer gets a look at the activity in the park. Closer to the actual facility you clearly experience a problem when exiting the freeway at Pine St . Individuals approach cars at the intersections, deliberately walk in front of cars as they pass the shelter and make menacing remarks or gestures. Going to the Post Office, Publix or Walgreen's is an exercise in avoiding panhandlers.

Before this shelter should be allowed to continue to operate I would ask that the city consider the following:

The health conditions of the building and the inhabitants

What is being done to address the alcohol and drug problems of the residents?

What steps are being taken to change the cycle of homelessness with these individuals?

Why are money and free food being provided to a shelter that is not performing to acceptable standards?

I applaud any individual or organization that works to help end the problem of homelessness throughout our cities. It is disturbing to me that corporations, businesses and houses of worship think that throwing money or free food at the problem is the best way to make a change. I deplore the plight of the homeless and know this is a complex problem to solve. Other agencies have been better at it. As it stands now the Metro Task Force for the Homeless is not measuring up. All you need to do is walk the distance from Peachtree to Parkway along Linden , Renaissance Way, and Pine streets to know there is a huge problem.

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I encourage you and hope that you will act accordingly to protect the neighborhood you represent. More tax money should not be given to the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

#45: NO FUNDING FOR PEACHTREE/PINE

I urge you to spend our city funds on homeless programs that actually help the homeless get off the streets. The Peachtree/Pine facility does not fit this description.

As a resident of Midtown (on the Ponce end of the neighborhood), we encounter a multitude of homeless people. Many are clearly disturbed, either mentally or because of substance abuse, and they need help. Several have admitted to being frightened of Peachtree/Pine because of the kind of people warehoused there. They say it's a large population of men just out of jail and they get beat up, robbed, etc. and don't want to stay there.

The Gateway Center, by contrast, is working to help the homeless find jobs, reunite with their families, and get the therapy (mental and physical) that they need to get back into society. This is the kind of visionary center we need to support with our tax dollars.

Please, put all of your funding behind a program that's working to make a difference. Support the Gateway Center.

#46: PINE STREET SHELTER A VIEW FROM A RESIDENT IN THE AREA

My husband and I have lived in the Central Park area for nearly 3 years now. We own a condominium near the corner of Renaissance Parkway and Piedmont Pd. Over those 3 years the situation in the area has deteriorated to the point it can be really scary around the Pine Street Shelter. And the scary area round the facility is growing throughout the neighborhood. I have to believe that there is a way to help people without my area of comfort shrinking.

When we first moved here, we did not have any trouble in the condo complex. Now, we have had a car stolen and several broken into. And, we are constantly worried about one of our elderly residence. He tries to walk to the store but is intimidated by the pleas from the homeless people hanging around. On more than one occasion, when they have asked him for money, they have taken everything he has. The homeless that hang around the area on a regular basis watch for him now. Because of his weakened condition, they do not hesitate to intimidate him.

There are people coming and going at all hours--late into the night and very early in the morning. It makes me afraid--for my own safety as well as theirs.

One of the reasons my husband and I moved here was to be able to walk rather than drive to restaurants, grocery stores, doctors, pharmacies etc. Trying to walk home down Renaissance Parkway in the evening now gives us serious pause. Before, the two of us would walk up Renaissance to Peachtree to the

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Shakespeare Tavern and to Pleasant Pheasant. Now, we are too scared to walk that route to those restaurants.

I usually, walk to work. It has always been difficult and scary to walk Courtland and Pine. However, when we first moved here, I could easily walk up Renaissance to Peachtree without having to work my way through groups of homeless people. Now, it has become very unnerving to walk up Renaissance Parkway on my way to and from work.

I am too afraid to drive down Courtland @ Pine especially early in the morning and late after dark--I don't want to hit anyone, and I don't want anyone to try to stop my car. As you might imagine, I don't walk there after dark either.

The other day I had to drive to work. I was stopped on Renaissance because of on coming traffic at Piedmont . Two men were on the corner near the passenger side of my vehicle. One stayed there while the other walked around the back of my car to the driver's door. Even though the doors were locked, I was so scared. Fortunately, there was an opening in the traffic and I could proceed before they could make their motives clear to me.

After visiting with us, our kids drive home from here in the evening. Before, they traveled down Courtland to on their way to Hyw 20. Now they are too scared to take that route. They are afraid they will hit one of the people wondering across the street in the dark. And, they are afraid someone may try to stop their car.

As the number of people loitering in the neighborhood grows, so does the cost grow for us to clean up the continual litter around our property. We have had to increase the number of days our clean up crew is on sight just to try and control the litter to some exist. We are a small condo complex so we cannot afford a full time maintenance man.

Many homeless people have drug/alcohol and/or mental illness. Doesn't that mean that they need more help than a free-for-all place to spend the night? While our local government has supported very positive and effective programs like the Gateway Center , the Pine Street shelter has become a haven for those with drug and alcohol issues. I would like my tax dollars to be spent on agencies that help these people and protect my neighborhood. The Pine Street shelter is not accomplishing that.

It's not that I don't want to help people in our neighborhood--I just want it to be safe for everyone--and I think what ever we do it should really help people not warehouse them.

#47: FW: TUESDAY MEETING

I unfortunately will not be able to attend the meeting due to work commitments that I am unable to re-schedule. I would like to offer my view here of how the shelter has impacted the quality of life within the SONO neighborhood.

1. Continuous panhandling day and night. Unable to walk anywhere in neighborhood without aggressively being asked for money, cigarettes, etc.

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2. Burglary and vandalism within our communities along Renaissance Parkway. My neighbor across the hall had EVERYTHING stolen out of his quarter of a million dollar condo. My neighbor below me had her car stolen. Numerous car break-ins. One resident had his car broken into twice in 3 weeks. Please look at all the 911 records for our community

3. The activities mentioned above have resulted in more expensive car insurance rates as well as condo rates for our neighborhood.

4. After speaking with the manager of the Publix on Piedmont and North Avenue, the CONTINUOUS shoplifting at Publix/Walgreens has led to higher food/product costs in neighborhood. Check Publix' 911 Records as well.

5. The continual strain on APD to monitor Renaissance Park and surrounding areas of the shelter. While I am appreciative that the APD has recently stepped up patrols and arrests, the strain on the department must be immense.

It is my opinion that this shelter needs to be closed to give SONO a fighting chance to be a nice extension to the upcoming Midtown Mile and foster development of productive businesses and residences within the community. If you are unable to walk your dog in your own neighborhood, people will begin to leave, as I am considering at this time.

Thanks again for your time and consideration.

#48: DISCONTINUE PEACHTREE PINE FUNDING

I am a resident of Ansley Park and have lived and worked in both Ansley and Midtown for the past 28 years. I don't want any more of my tax dollars going to the Peachtree Pine shelter! It has become a menace to our neighborhood and must be either completely revamped or closed!

The Peachtree Pine shelter should be evaluated with an eye towards new management and new strategies for its residents. This cannot be accomplished with the current management refusing to look at their situation clearly. They are asking for more tax money to continue their current practices, which are not working. I do not approve of any money going towards efforts that are not only not succeeding, but are also causing more crime for those of us who live and work in Midtown.

#49: FW: STOP FUNDING FOR PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I support the efforts of the Mayor's office to stop further State and Federal Tax funding of the Peachtree Pine Shelter for 2008. As a resident of the area I see what it is doing to our Midtown and Central Atlanta Neighborhoods and personally am a victim of the increasing vandalism and theft that is plaguing the area. I leave nothing in my car and keep the glove box and center console open and empty, yet they still slashed my convertible roof and pilfered the car only to find nothing to steal at a cost of over \$2000.00 to repair. While I support well managed solutions to the homeless issues, handing out free meals and then turning the people out into surrounding neighborhoods is clearly not the solution. As President of the Home Owners Association Board for Siena Condominium

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Complex on Renaissance Parkway, I am well aware of the continued and increasing issues surrounding having the homeless wander through our neighborhoods at all hours of the day and night. Car break-ins, vandalism, loitering, and drug dealers in the area are only fueled by the poorly run shelters. Please help us improve the quality of life that has deteriorated over the past years.

PLEASE STOP ALL FURTHER STATE AND FEDERAL TAX FUNDING OF THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER.

#50: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter and the upcoming meeting scheduled for 31 July at City Hall. Unfortunately, I am working out of town this week, and cannot attend in person.

I strongly oppose the City of Atlanta using tax dollars to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter. As a resident of Central Park Lofts for the past 4 years, I have noticed a decline in the community caused by public drunkenness, indecent exposure/public defecation in Central Park, and relatively widespread drug-dealing. In my building, which is gate-secured, we are still experiencing car break-ins and trespassing regularly.

I am most concerned with some of the families and their young children that have moved into my building, and into the area in general, being exposed to the behavior and criminal elements associated with some patrons of this shelter

#51: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am a resident at the Enclave condominiums on Renaissance Parkway writing to voice my concern over the Peachtree Pine Shelter. The Shelter is making our neighborhood increasingly dangerous and promotes drug use and other illicit activity.

The Shelter's policy to not have a drug policy has caused an influx of drug dealers and prostitutes to move in the area. On a normal day, while walking my dogs, I see multiple drug transactions taking place. The police presence has improved but, unfortunately, there is only so much they can do. The removal of the shelter or the implementation of a drug-free program similar to the Atlanta Gateway Center is necessary.

The shelter is responsible for a significant number of panhandlers in the area, which will continue to increase. On several occasions, when confronted with a panhandler and telling him that I did not any money, and the panhandlers have persisted with profanities and threatening jesters. The day will come when it will become more than profane words and jesters and hopefully the shelter will not be to blame.

The Shelter's continued presence will impair the City of Atlanta's vision of the Midtown Mile. Who wants to walk around and visit stores when they're going to be hounded for money or feel unsafe? Furthermore, what reputable retailer will

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want to take the risk of moving into an area where crime and illegal drug use is merely a couple of blocks away. The Shelter will only continue to encourage this behavior, and panhandlers will flood the Mile.

Please let me clarify my e-mail. I do not oppose the homeless shelter. I feel the homeless need help. I, however, vehemently oppose the Peachtree Pine Shelter's admittance policy. If they do not move towards a drug-free program, I one-hundred-percent support the pulling of city, state and federal funding from the Shelter. In the Shelter's current state, its inhabitants are creating a dangerous and unsavory atmosphere, which will ultimately drive tax-paying residents from its vicinity. Unless the shelter is moved or until its policies become more stringent, I, for one, will eventually move from the area.

Finally, I understand Ms. Felicia Moore supports the shelter and its policies. I invite Ms. Moore to spend a week in one of our units to witness how the shelter is blighting our community and to witness the unsavory characters preying on the residents of the shelter due to its lack of a drug-free policy.

Thank you for your time. I welcome the opportunity to talk with any of you or your associates regarding this issue.

#52: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I understand that you will be considering funding for the Peachtree Pine shelter tomorrow. I am very sympathetic to the need of the homeless and the complexity of the problems that face them. However, the Peachtree Pine shelter does nothing to address the needs of the homeless, while it continues to have an overwhelming negative impact on our neighborhood. The shelter's management is contemptuous of their neighbors and the community at large. They have done nothing to deserve the continued support of the city.

I write today to ask you to not provide funding to Peachtree Pine shelter. The city should not facilitate this cancer in our neighborhood.

#53: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

As a resident owner of Central Park Lofts Condominiums, I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter. The quality of life in the Central Atlanta and Midtown areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, and our public safety.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#54: FW: CITY COUNCIL MEETING/HOMELESS SHELTER ISSUE

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I appreciate your taking an interest in this issue. The shelter at Peachtree and Pine has a HUGE impact on my neighborhood.

I live at Siena on Renaissance Parkway. In many ways it would be an ideal place for me to live. I work in downtown and spend a lot of time in Midtown for entertainment, shopping, dining, working out, etc. There are several other things I like about it as well.

However, all this is trumped by the ongoing problem of crime and safety issues that had continually worsened with no signs of improvement since I bought my condo nine years ago.

To keep this brief, here are just a few problems I've encountered:

- I had a convertible when I moved to Siena. I always kept in unlocked with NOTHING inside it. About once a week on average, as I would walk out in the morning to go to work, I'd find the door open, floor mats strewn around, glove compartment open, lights on, etc. Once I came out and the back window (when the soft top was up) had been cut with a knife - a three-foot horizontal cut. After that costly repair, I next came out to find the same thing, except on the top instead of the back window. On another instance I came out to find a window smashed out. All this was done when both doors were unlocked!! I only called the police a couple of times, otherwise I'd be an hour late for work every morning filing police reports.
- One night I was walking down Peachtree Street and got mugged by three guys that grabbed my wallet.
- I constantly see people selling drugs on the side of the street when driving by. I don't feel safe walking ANYWHERE, and unfortunately have to drive even to places a couple of blocks away.
- My property value has increased a fraction of what similar properties further north into Midtown have in the nine years I've lived here.
- I'm considering selling my place soon to move to a neighborhood not surrounded by homelessness, drug dealing, robberies, muggings, etc.
- I regret not being able to attend the meeting this week - I can't get away from work, unfortunately. I would be more than happy to support improving our neighborhood any way that I can, however.

Thanks again so much for taking the initiatives you've taken on this!

#55: THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I have been a resident of Central Park Lofts (intersection of Pine and Central Park Place) for 4 years now. This is one of the most beautiful tree lined streets in the city and the view from my balcony facing Midtown and Buckhead and Central Park is spectacular.

But the times are changing quickly. Although the magnificent skylines of Midtown and Buckhead continue to grow and awe-inspire, I cannot say the same

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for Central Park. The homeless who rely on the free meals offered to them from the Peachtree Pine shelter have found a home in the park. Their numbers increase by the day ... and so has the destruction of this beautiful neighborhood. On a daily basis, I witness drug deals; public drunkenness; people sleeping, defecating and urinating on the grass; littering; screaming; and nudity. Every street pole in this area has been spray painted with nonsense graffiti ... so have the buildings.

Can you tell me why this is happening? If the Peachtree Pine shelter is doing such a good job, why are these people not becoming more self-sufficient? Why are there numbers increasing by the day? I know the answer ... because this shelter is not doing its job!! Instead of offering them a meal once in a while, they should be teaching them to become self-sufficient, to find jobs, to support themselves, to better the community instead of destroying it. We need responsible shelters that will recognize this plight and determine methods to better the quality of lives of homeless. Leaders that will get these people back on their feet and into jobs and homes instead of giving them a meal and sending them off to lay down in the park. I actually think that the leadership of this shelter is using the park as a place to store the unfortunate so that they can obtain more funding.

This is a real problem! It is getting worse by the day and I have the pictures and videos to prove it. Don't let this problem continue! Give this money to shelters who know how to help the homeless ... not to shelters that are destroying the city and what was once beautiful. I would encourage any of you to come visit me for a coffee on my balcony and see first hand. Hopefully, you won't keep your eyes focused on the skyline and ignore what is happening below your nose ... the Peachtree Pine Shelter obviously is.

Thank you for your understanding and please make the right decision.

Do you like getting beat up and robbed? I don't. Please stop funding Peachtree Pine.

And possible solutions.

I own and pay considerable tax on a condominium located two blocks away from Peachtree Pine—as do many of my neighbors. I urge all of you to vote against city funding of Peachtree Pine. In the past three years, I have been affected by the shelter negatively in the following ways:

1. I was **attacked** two months ago **by a homeless-looking man with a large rock** as I got out of my car at the Walgreens at Piedmont and North Avenue (a well lit area). He tried to **hit me in the head with the large rock** but instead hit my arm as I tried to shield my face. He then **shoved my head into the concrete wall, scraping up the side of my face, injuring my jaw, and bloodying my nose**. A struggle ensued as he was trying to get my wallet/money and **he hit me a couple of more times giving me a black eye and cutting my face and arms** more. After defending myself by hitting him back, he finally ran away.

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2. **My car has been broken into four times by smashing a window—** once for a pair of shoes, once to rip out all the speakers/stereo/electronics, once to steal the whole car by tearing up the ignition and steering column and once for my gym bag. **Repairing the car and replacing stolen items is expensive, time consuming, and has raised my insurance rates.**
3. I am **constantly asked for money or cigarettes and have been physically threatened** if I do not have any to give.
4. **Renaissance Park, Central Park and the sidewalks/bushes nearby are constantly filled with trash—food wrappers, rain soaked clothes, vodka bottles, beer cans, newspaper, chicken bones, fast food wrappers, condoms and condom wrappers.**
5. The folks in Renaissance Park act like they own it and **hassle me when I have taken my dog there** for a walk—which has only been twice for this very reason. It is **filled with people sleeping, urinating, and to a large extent living there.**
6. I have had **two bikes stolen** which were locked up to a bike rack inside my locked condominium building which is behind locked gates.
7. Almost every night there is a **group of between five and twenty people at the corner of Courtland and Renaissance** selling their wares I assume. Sometimes the group is so large that it is quite scary—even inside a car. I have **had people step right out in front of my car and block the way so I have to either stop or go around them. And I have come close to hitting one person because he wandered out into Courtland while crossing and not paying attention.** There is a constant flow of people walking, wandering, and stumbling from the shelter to Renaissance Park and Central Park on the sidewalks and in the middle of the streets where you wouldn't expect people to be.
8. The **people always hanging out near Peachtree Pine hassling people for money** make me leery to walk near there alone, with my dog, and especially with a suitcase or laptop computer if I am on my way to MARTA or downtown.
9. **I used to walk to restaurants, clubs, and bars nearby on Piedmont or Peachtree, to the Civic Center, and to the Fox theatre. But after being attacked, I no longer walk to these places—it's just too dangerous.** Other people who go to these places are being hassled as well, but may not know of the shelter's location and that they need to be extremely careful in this neighborhood.

I just don't think my neighbors and I should pay so much in taxes and get so little in return while those who pay little to no taxes and have no interest whatsoever in taking care of the area get to trash our neighborhood and parks. In addition to high property taxes, I have had to pay for medical care,

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pay increased insurance rates, replace stolen property and live in a dirty, smelly litter-strewn neighborhood where I often feel intimidated and can't use the parks closest to my home.

Despite my complaints, I also sympathize with the plight of the homeless and in the spirit of trying to help offer a few proposed solutions (which may or may not work).

1. Move Peachtree Pine to a more industrial area where there are fewer homes and businesses.
2. Strictly enforce littering, jaywalking, controlled substance and trespassing laws.
3. Shorten hours the parks are open.
4. Have neighbors write financial sponsors of the shelter to let them know the problems the shelter is creating.
5. Have neighbors call the police more often to report possible crimes or suspicious activity.
6. Extend the anti-panhandling ordinance to North Ave. or Ponce de Leon (if not already in place).

Because of the myriad problems created by Peachtree Pine, I urge all of you to cut city funding to this shelter and seek other ways to improve the homeless problem. Thank you very much for your time and consideration!!

#56: PINE STREET SHELTER

I am a resident at Enclave at Renaissance (corner of Renaissance and Piedmont). On a daily basis I tell my fiancé that I am disgusted with our surroundings. We have lived here for 2 years and have been fairly happy where we decided to live, until recently. The problem with the homeless in the area has always been an issue, but it has been much more of a problem over the last 6-8 months.

Problem 1 -- I cannot walk out of my gate without someone harassing me for money. No matter what I'm doing (walking the dogs, going to run, or going to the grocery store) I am approached. Being a woman I also feel for my safety at times. There are times when I have also experienced sexual comments from some of the men on the street.

Problem 2 -- The trash on the street in front of our complex is ridiculous. Sure I could go out and pick it up, but why? When someone will come behind me and drop their trash on the ground. I myself have also seen people "using the restroom" in the space behind building 3 and the Publix shopping center.

Problem 3 -- There are people who climb over or crawl under the fence to our property. Several cars have been broken into over the last 6 months, one car has been stolen, and one of the condos was broken into about a year ago. This is unsafe! Atlanta police do patrol in the area (and I am grateful for what they have tried to do to help "clean up" the area) , but I am noticing their presence less and less recently.

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I am not opposed to having a place where people can go to help better themselves. The Gateway Shelter is doing some great things to help people get a new start in life. What I am opposed to is sending these people out into the community to beg for money and food and trash our city. The City of Atlanta has some great ideas to revitalize and improve the Midtown/Downtown area, but if the homeless problem isn't properly addressed all of these plans will be for nothing.

I love Atlanta and the area of town that I live in! However, I am almost embarrassed to show my family where I live because of all of the vagrants and trash. After living in New Orleans for several years, I was excited to move here because I thought Atlanta was a cleaner, safer city. I am starting to second guess this as I come to realize I am dealing with the same problems. I invite anyone who is in favor of the Pine Street Shelter to come and stay in the area for a week and experience what we put up with on a daily basis.

#57: LETTER REGARDING UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING ON 7/31

This e-mail is in response to Kwanza Hall's call to action regarding the emergency shelter at Peachtree and Pine. I am a resident of [a condo association near Central Park] and in just 24 hours I was able to get nearly 40 signatures attesting to the fact that the shelter at Peachtree and Pine negatively affects our quality of life. (Only 24 Signatures Attached due to size of scanned images.) I will bring the originals to the meeting tomorrow at City Hall.

Please find below the letter to which the residents signed:

July 29, 2007

Dear Mrs. Franklin,

As residents of Siena at Renaissance Park Condo Complex, we would like to voice our concerns about the Peachtree Pine Shelter, and the side-effects that play a significant role in community crime and disorder in our area. We are aware that the Mayor's office has intervened to prevent further State and Federal Tax dollars from going to Peachtree Pine for 2008, and we, as residents of the area, agree with this decision.

The shelter, in its current state, is not designed to deal with the complex nature of homelessness (including substance abuse and mental health) but rather provides lodging in an open dormitory and hands out free meals to then turn people out into surrounding neighborhoods during the day without any structured plans for lifestyle changes. As a result, our community, located across from Renaissance Park, suffers from heightened vandalism and a lack of safety. Unfortunately, car break-ins are common even though we live in a gated community. We, as residents, are forced to pay for the repairs and replacement of the stolen items as well as deal with the inconveniences of having to take the damaged vehicle to the shop. We work hard to live in the complex we do, and our desire to work hard and earn a living should not be attacked. Additionally, due to the volume of

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insurance claims, we suffer from increased car insurance rates simply because we reside in our current zip code.

Additionally, we are not able to enjoy the benefits of the beautiful parks that surround our condo complex. When we go for walks during the day, we are accosted by people asking for money in what is predominantly a residential neighborhood. Both Renaissance Park and Central Park have been taken over by the homeless. Once turned loose from the shelter, these individuals make their way to the city parks where they pass out, throw garbage, etc. Despite the close proximity of these parks, we are no longer able to enjoy them with our children or our pets. City workers do such a wonderful job maintaining these city green spaces and yet residents are unable to utilize these areas due to homeless bodies scattered all over the park.

We as homeowners and residents of this area want action and solutions. Relocation of this shelter would be an important step towards the goal of safe and clean city streets.

#58: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER FUNDING

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta, Midtown and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and downtown worker; so, every day, all day, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#59: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am a homeowner (taxpayer) at Enclave at Renaissance Condominiums and work at Georgia Power, three blocks from my home. I want to let you know how I and my neighbors at Enclave are affected by the concentration of homeless in our community. This is the reality of our daily lives.

Every day I see people hanging out in both Renaissance Park and Central Park. The concentration seems to have increased in the last year. The homeless have literally taken over Renaissance Park and a large portion of Central Park. The sanitary conditions are deplorable ... unhealthy not only for children and animals who might visit or walk through the park, but for the homeless themselves. I have seen young children walking through Central Park to school and being exposed to the people camped out there and the unsanitary conditions.

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Those who practically live in the park have free entertainment watching tennis and soccer yet the community is asked to show up for park clean-up days. Why should I be expected to clean up their messes?!!!

The homeless sit on the wall on the Piedmont side of Enclave at Renaissance and on the walls, steps, pathways and under the trees of the park leaving their trash everywhere. On Renaissance Pkwy. they sit and watch residents enter and leave the complex. Almost every day police are arresting someone across from Enclave, but how long can they be kept in jail? It would be nice to be able to walk from my home to Publix or to local restaurants without being accosted by beggars. I frequently go to the Publix at Ansley Mall to avoid going to the one next door. There have been numerous car break-ins.

Conditions along Courtland and Pine Streets where they congregate are terrible. I'm appalled to think there is actually an expansion of the shelter in process. How much more homeless population can this community absorb? What about the businesses on Peachtree that will also be hurt?

I am a compassionate person, and it breaks my heart to see people in such seemingly hopeless circumstances, but it is my belief that the present system of dealing with the homeless issue in our area is totally ineffective. It does not seem to solve any problems, yet the homeless population continues to increase and the problems grow. What is being done by the shelters and the Task Force for the Homeless to really HELP the people? Job training? More permanent or transitional housing? Helping them reconnect with their families? Getting the right kind of help for those with mental problems or addictions? How are they being lifted from their seemingly hopeless conditions?

I don't have the answers, but whatever is being done is not working for the good of our community of both residents and businesses.

I DO NOT WANT MY TAX DOLLARS TO CONTINUE TO FUND THE PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER!

#60: DENY SUPPORT TO THE PINE STREET SHELTER

Good morning, I will be attending the meeting this afternoon regarding the funding of the Pine Street Shelter to represent the 224 homeowners of McGill Park as their Board President and reporting back to other HOA communities in our area, including Central Park Lofts, Highland Townhouses, McGill Place, Renaissance I & II, The Enclave, and Sienna.

We ask the city to deny funding of this shelter. It is a complicated situation as any involving the charitable help of the indigent population of Atlanta; however it is apparent to many within our complex and Central Fourth Ward community that the Shelter is not a solution.

It has been open in our community for many years but does not,

- Demonstrate measurable progress with solving the problems of the homeless by transitioning individuals off the street

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- Properly manage its facility to ensure the safety of the community and denies any responsibility for the effects it has on the neighborhood. Other facilities do not have the atmosphere this facility does on Pine Street.
- Work with the city by following proven guidelines, but expects public funding of the program without any cooperation
- Work with the police and use basic screen techniques

The tax payers are funding well established programs which are networked together to provide a path for recovery and help. We are not in support of funding the Pine Street Shelter and are not pleased with the tactics of busing people in to demonstrate support or individuals who do not live in our neighborhood deciding what is best for us. I expect many people to speak today about how it has helped them, but do not think those testimonials balance out cons the shelter presents for all of us.

Please deny your support [for the Peachtree Pine shelter]. Concentrate our money on programs which can measure progress, work with the community, and operate responsibly.

Follow up to Funding Peachtree Pine Shelter

I live at and have been here for over three years. I am president of the homeowner's association and take pride in keeping our building attractive and also being involved in our parks and community events by participating in Park Pride and the Central Atlanta Neighbors (CAN).

Thank you for the opportunity to participate regarding the situation with the shelter at Peachtree and Pine streets. I attended the CDHRC committee meeting on July 31 and due to the length of the meeting I was unable to stay and speak. I have many questions for the well-intentioned people who serve on the board of the shelter as it seems that none of them are day-to-day residents of our neighborhood and have no idea what it is like to be exposed to the unpleasantness caused by the shelter's operation.

Currently, there are six units for sale in our building that have been on the market over 6 to 12 months. Many of these overlook Central Park. Taking into account the sluggish market these property owners have had an unusually difficult time managing the perception that the park and surrounding area is unsafe when potential buyers observe the idle men gathered in the park, the ensuing litter and what can only be described as questionable activity.

Things have changed since our building was built and people who moved here initially understood that the area was in transition. However, both Renaissance and Central Parks were free of vagrants even then. In the last 12 to 18 months the situation has reversed itself. Groups of people from the direction of the Peachtree Pine shelter descend on the park in the early morning and laze around all day. There is a continual parade between Peachtree and the parks along Linden, Pine and Renaissance Way.

If the shelter feels they are providing a positive service then I have the following questions:

1. Why is the shelter not employing day programs to help train these individuals?

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2. Why doesn't the shelter have an outreach program for the community to help keep the parks, the area around the Civic Center and the shelter clean? (Their one day a month cleanup for 2 hours around the shelter is grossly inadequate.)
3. What facilities does the shelter have to provide support for drug and alcohol abuse? (I did not hear that anyone on their staff has a medical license or background.)
4. What are they doing to manage psychological and emotional needs for the homeless?
5. What is the model for a successful shelter? Surely there is a workable ratio of sheltered individuals to shelter support personnel.

To this lay observer and one who is continually assaulted by the actions and fallout of the shelter and their inhabitants, the band-aid being employed by this facility is ineffective and detrimental to the businesses and residents in the community. While at the meeting I overheard several men who were there in support of the shelter make comments about the lack of services being provided at Peachtree Pine and all that was happening there was overnight warehousing and food handouts. This is not a recipe for success and does not result in a long term change of the individual's status.

The shelter continues to be a cause of concern and threatens the quality of life in our community. The shelter spokespersons invited council members to visit the shelter to see for themselves. I invite the shelter board and employees to walk through Central and Renaissance Parks, observe the activities visible from our sidewalks and windows and tell me that this is acceptable and contributes to the community of which they claim to be a part.

On August 20th please vote to uphold the recommendation to deny funding the shelter with tax dollars and hold the shelter board accountable for positive results and responsible actions in working to end homelessness in the area.

#61: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I was not able to attend the CDHRC Meeting yesterday but did send a letter last week detailing the decline in the neighborhood surrounding the Peachtree Pine shelter and the various incidents that I have personally encountered by the flood of people that invade the neighborhood during the hours the shelter is not open. I have done volunteer work at many of the State's homeless shelters and have seen first hand how the good ones operate.

I beg you to please uphold the recommendation on the 20th to deny funding the shelter with tax dollars and to hold the shelter board accountable for positive actions and results to change the homeless situation in this area.

I ask that prior to the vote, each of you visit the shelter and the surrounding Renaissance and Central Park to see first hand the plight on this neighborhood. I also ask that you visit Nicholas House a shelter where I volunteer to see a place that I think is the benchmark for what a shelter should provide. While it is a shelter for families, the concepts used there should be applied to all homeless shelters in order to obtain tax dollar funding. Just do the two walkthroughs and

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there is no way that you would vote to fund the Peachtree Pine shelter. Please review the credo for Nicholas House below:

#62: PINE STREET SHELTER FUNDING

I am writing in regards to the Pine Street Homeless Shelter issue. I have lived in Atlanta for 25 years and 3 years ago I moved to the 30308 zip code. I live on Renaissance Parkway and work in the downtown area as well. I am writing to you as a true city-dwelling-tax payer who loves all things Atlantian and being a part of this rich community.

Our community has had numerous car break-ins, people walking through our security gates who do not belong on property, increase in garbage on the streets, drug deals going down in front of my eyes, and stolen property such as bikes and vehicles. A week ago, I woke up early to walk my dogs behind my condo building. Upon opening my door, I was face to face with a homeless man on drugs. Keep in mind I live in a gated community, so his presence behind the building was that much more frightening. This is not what life should be like for the taxes we pay and the area where we live. If the city continues to demand the amount of tax we are paying each year, they have got to take action against the closing of the shelter.

As a tax payer, I should be able to use the park at the corner of Piedmont and Renaissance Parkway whenever I wish, but I never do and neither do any of the other homeowners. And, I should not feel I must walk my dogs on the street everyday while watching my back.

As long as the Pine Street Shelter stays open, I do not feel safe in my home, walking, shopping and doing all the things that I as a tax payer and resident am entitled to. I know that this will affect the number of people who will want to move in to this area, and I agree with the Mayor's office's plan to discontinue tax dollars from going to the Peachtree Pine Shelter in 2008.

#63: STOP FUNDING PINE STREET SHELTER: FOLLOW UP TO FUNDING PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I also live at Central Park Loft (395 Central Park Place) and also own another property in Highland Cityview townhomes. I am requesting your immediate support to close the shelter and cease all funding.

I have invested \$700,000 in condos in this area and am also a resident in one of them. I invested in the area because of the redevelopment going on. I never anticipated 5 years later that my streets would still be littered with homelessness, lines at food lines stretching into busy streets, drug abuses, wandering people into our development aimlessly, and a park littered with literally 20-30 people sleeping in it each night.

The Pine street facility causes these folks to come from further away neighborhoods and trek all day and night through our redeveloped neighborhood. This has to stop and your immediate attention to stop the funding of this facility is requested.

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The shelter may have been needed at one point in time in this location because this was the epicenter of this population that needed assistance. Now, the only reason they are here is because of the shelter. Not because they are here originally.

Please look for ways to identify alternate solutions and location for the Pine shelter. But South of North area is not it.

This shelter is hindering the growth of the South of North area but near Peachtree and also in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The civic center is ripe for redevelopment into a world class facility. But your decisions will impact our investment and property values, the safety of our neighborhoods.

VOTE TO STOP THE FUNDING IMMEDIATELY

#64: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta , Midtown and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness, public bodily waste relief, and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and work from home; so, every day, all day, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#65: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta, Midtown and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, and displays of public drunkenness, public bodily waste relief, and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and work from home; so, every day, all day, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public.

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I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#66: PEACHTREE-PINE SHELTER

I am a resident of the Fourth Ward and am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta, Midtown and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness, public bodily waste relief, and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and work from home; so, every day, all day, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to close the facility.

#67: NO TO PEACHTREE/PINE

I bought in Midtown as an investment. Not to live around homeless people. I'VE BEEN HOMELESS AND BROUGHT MYSELF BACK. I'M NOT HOMELESS TODAY AND DON'T WANT TO LIVE WITH THEM. They are the cause of much trouble in Midtown.

#68: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I would like to add that over the past year there has been a rash of car break-ins in the Old Fourth Ward and a local business, caught a well known homeless person on video tape committing the act of smashing a car window and breaking into a car. This person is still roaming the streets in the Old Fourth Ward. While all acts may not have been committed by a homeless person, such acts by the homeless are unacceptable and a waste of the City's time to pursue and a waste of tax dollars.

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta, Midtown and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness, public bodily waste relief, and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and work from home; so, every day, all day, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public.

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I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

KEEP HOMELESS/CRIME OUT OF OUR NIEGHBORHOOD

I have been in St. Judes for 7 month's. I've sold myself to buy drugs. I'm not there today. I'm a tax paying citizen and I have St. Judes to thank. However I'm the first one to tell one that this soup kitchen/homeless shelter needs to be moved from the neighborhood. Why not Underground, Buckhead, Lenox Mall, in the park near the coke or the aquarium, or the Airport Atrium? I bought in Midtown to give back to the city and to invest in my future. I don't want to see Peachtree/Pine destroy what I've been trying to build. Plus I've seen naked men and I know this Institution has fueled crime in Midtown. And I've walked in these peoples shoes. God helps those who help themselves. 99% of these don't want better and need to be moved.

#69: STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE HOMELESS

My husband and I are residents of the Enclave at Renaissance Condominiums. Because of our overwhelmingly concern about the continued State funding of the Peachtree Pine Facility we did attend the Community Development/Human Resources Committee (CDHRC) hearing held Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

For over four hours we listened to proponents of the shelter as they attempted to rationalize maintaining an unregulated and unaccountable system of human warehousing. Although the Metro Atlanta Task Force was able to present a show of individuals who credited the shelter for uplifting their lives, the reality is this is not the norm. The mere volume of the homeless population that is herded in and out of the shelter daily dictates that only a few will actually receive and benefit from the available services. Countless others are undeniably doomed to suffer the indignities and inhumane conditions of chronic homelessness as witnessed on our local streets and in our parks.

I do commend the Task Force and businesses that support those persons attempting to transition from homelessness to a self sufficient status. But the idea that the shelter's personnel can control 400 to 500 homeless is greatly flawed. The Council also needs to consider that based on statements at this hearing, many of the homeless are intentionally bused to Atlanta with the direct end destination being the Peachtree-Pine Facility. Meaning this controversy will only intensify as the number of homeless are received into the facility while burdening the surrounding community with chronic vagrants.

Some of your colleagues may consider this to be a District 2 issue and feel that as long as a fully "functional" homeless shelter is in "another district" their constituency will not have to concern themselves with a shelter of sorts in their own community. Please remind them that this is a city concern. All citizens of Atlanta should expect their tax dollars be utilized to support an adequately operational facility responsive to the distinct needs of the homeless.

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Resolution to the homeless crisis is going to take the collaborative efforts of the Council and Mayor's Office. Placing a "Band-Aid" on a terminal sore is not a viable solution.

I do appeal to you and your colleagues to consider and vote on the City of Atlanta's opinion that the Peachtree-Pine Facility, as it is currently conceived and managed by the Task Force for the Homeless, should not be the recipient of further State funding.

My husband and I do thank you for considering our position and wish you well as you continue to serve and support the residents of District Two.

#70: PINE SHELTER

I am writing to you regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I oppose the City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta, Midtown and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness, public bodily waste relief, and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and work from home; so, every day, all day, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.

#71: PEACHTREE PINE SHELTER

I am writing you today regarding the Peachtree Pine Shelter. I am opposed to City of Atlanta tax dollars being used to fund the Peachtree Pine Shelter.

The quality of life in the Central Atlanta, Midtown, and Old Fourth Ward areas is adversely affected by the inadequate programs and facilities being employed there. The presence of the shelter has led to drug dealing, excessive littering, displays of public drunkenness, public bodily waste relief, and other unpleasant and unsanitary behaviors in Central and Renaissance Parks, as well as throughout the Old Fourth Ward Community. This has a negative impact on residents, business owners, visitors, downtown workers and our public safety. I am both a resident and I work from home, so, all day, everyday, I see effect that the shelter has on not just the tax-paying residents, but the general public as well.

I support the council in denying tax dollars to the shelter and taking steps to require the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless to be responsible and accountable for the problems generated by this shelter.