

NOTICE: We need your help.

The Spring Garden Neighborhood Association opposes Abraham Atiyeh’s appeal to build a 47-bed drug and alcohol rehabilitation center at 2349 Linden Street (formerly the Moose & Bug Florist) near Spring Garden Elementary School. The project is not appropriate for this location.

Dear Neighbor,

Concerned neighbors recently formed Spring Garden Neighborhood Association (SGNA) to oppose construction of a 35,000 square foot rehabilitation facility in our neighborhood, near Spring Garden Elementary School. Several of us successfully opposed this application at recent Zoning Hearing Board meetings. However, the fight continues at the Court of Common Pleas, Northampton County.

Why do we oppose this application? Many of us support rehab treatment when it is properly located and operated. But 2349 Linden Street is not an appropriate location.

- The proposed facility is inconsistent with the character of our stable, middle-class, mature neighborhood. The immediate area consists of agricultural fields, churches, retirement communities, and homes.
- Our neighborhood will be perceived as less safe due to the association of current and former drug users with crime and violence. Approximately 600-700 patients will be treated annually; treatment often includes impulse control and anger management. Patients may walk out of the facility.
- Locating the proposed facility near Spring Garden Elementary School will deter students from walking to school and using their playground.
- Concerns about safety will adversely affect family decisions to move into our neighborhood and may even adversely affect enrollment in nearby Bethlehem Catholic High School.
- There is concern that Mr. Atiyeh may not be the long-term operator of this proposed facility and/or that the target patient population may shift towards those with criminal backgrounds (e.g., the work-release, DUI offenders, and non-support offenders in his new facility in West Easton).

We have retained legal representation to assist in fighting Mr. Atiyeh’s appeal. We have also mounted an effort to engage Bethlehem Area School District, Bethlehem City Council and others to oppose Mr. Atiyeh’s appeal.

We need your help.

- Learn more about what is going on; talk with us, other parents and neighbors.
- Tell your political representatives and community leaders how you feel.
 - Attend the March 19th City Council meeting (7:00pm, 10 Church St.) and speak on behalf of a resolution to retain Mr. Christopher Spadoni to intervene in opposition to Mr. Atiyeh’s appeal.
- Sign up for periodic newsletters and updates.
- Consider financially supporting our legal defense fund.
- Visit www.northbethaction.org for more information and background on other rehab applications.

Call us or send an email with your thoughts and contact information. For SGNA, **Diane and Tim Mason, 610-868-8183 and tdm1519@yahoo.com**

Diane & Tim Mason, 2411 Woodstock Drive	Licia Paulus, 2530 Madison Avenue	Steve Barron, 2239 Lincoln Street
Judy & Dave Smullen, 2429 Linden Street	Pat & Dean Paulus, 2421 Woodstock Drive	March 11, 2013