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**PLANNING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

March 27, 2017

Dear Mr. Hubbard and Members of the Plan Commission,

As a Faith in Action Team, six Churches in Arlington Heights have joined forces the North/ Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness, co-president Hugh Brady, to open supportive housing for people living with mental illnesses or other disabilities and in Arlington Heights. The six churches and team members who represent their congregations are Richard Fung from St. James Catholic Church, Loryn Ankeny from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nancy Duel from First United Methodist Church, Rev. Connie Stewart and JoAnn Rapp from Congregational United Church of Christ Gary Gephart from St. John United Church of Christ and Linda Waycie from Southminster Presbyterian Church.

The Faith in Action Team's mission is to increase awareness of justice issues impacting our brothers and sisters in our local community, and to provide opportunities for our churches and friends to participate in actions that influence public policy toward a more just world.

The need for permanent supportive housing is great! As part of the zoning applications for an earlier proposed permanent supportive housing in Arlington Heights seven years ago the developer provided a market study showing a need for such housing. The study concluded that within a five mile radius of the proposed site near the corner of Arlington Heights and Dundee Rd. there was a "need for 973 permanent supportive housing units for the chronically mentally ill." Other agencies currently provide housing for around 100 people with mental illness in the same five mile radius. That leaves a shortage of over 800 units!

In a recent sign up day at the Kenneth Young Center in Schaumburg, more than two hundred people registered to be on the waiting list for PhilHaven, a 50 unit permanent supportive housing building in Wheeling that just opened in December, 2016.

The Arlington Heights Faith in Action Team supports Heart's Place, on Boeger Dr. in Arlington Heights. This facility will consist of sixteen housing units for persons with disabilities and facing chronic homelessness, providing those households with

high-quality housing and wrap-around services. Potential residents will be rigorously screened by the Housing Opportunity Development Corp. (HODC). Applications will be reviewed for income and background compliance and other criteria. Residents with a history of criminal violence or are drug users will be screened out.

Because disabled residents with mental illness do receive treatment that includes medication and counseling on site, residents are no more violent or likely to commit violent crimes than the average person. Studies show that residents are much more likely to be VICTIMS of violent crimes than the general public is. There is widespread fear of persons with disabilities of all types and the Arlington Heights Faith in Action Team stands to support those in our community that have no voice and need facilities like Heart's Place of Arlington Heights.

Please approve Heart's Place tonight.