

Diocese of Beaumont

710 Archie Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701
Mailing: PO Box 3948
Beaumont, Texas 77704-3948



Telephone: (409) 924-4322
Fax: (409) 838-4511
Email: mstevens@dioceseofbmt.org

Office of Catholic Schools

February 10, 2017

Statement to City Council February 14, 2017

I am Marcia Stevens, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, in the Diocese of Beaumont. I am here today to address the proposed concept of affordable senior housing and affordable family homes at the site of Games People Play, on College Street. The property is adjacent to Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School.

The Catholic Church teaches and promotes decent, safe and affordable housing. It is a human right and enhances the dignity of the human person. The Church collaborates with communities and governments to ensure that the housing needs of all are met, especially the elderly and vulnerable. The Diocese of Beaumont, through Catholic Charities and its many ministries, when possible, partners with local governments and organizations to realize the common good.

After recently meeting with the developer of the proposed concept, there are several concerns that we would like you to consider. First, we are concerned about being a good neighbor. Our focus at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School is to provide a well-rounded education of students, which includes many extracurricular activities. Our teenagers are highly involved, frequently noisy and always energetic.

The proposed housing will be directly at the edge of our football stadium, baseball field, soccer field, and softball field. Most days of the week the powerful sports field lights will be on for practice and games long into the evening. There is always noise from cheering spectators, band performance and practice, pep rallies and other student events. I envision home run balls hit over the fence into the residential area.

Our students and staff access the school using Wendelin Drive and Kelly Drive. There are about 500 vehicles every morning and afternoon on those streets. Residents of the proposed development will be sharing Wendelin Drive for access to their homes. This will add to the traffic congestion on this narrow street, which is not lighted or controlled. This will be dangerous. When we have a ball game or event the traffic will substantially increase with parents and supporters. Remember many of the drivers in the morning and afternoon are 16-years-old.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. Thank you for your service to our community and I ask you to consider our concerns.

Marcia Stevens
Superintendent of Schools