

PRESS RELEASE: March 14, 2013

IONA Attends Warren City Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting and Exercises Right To Free Speech and Protest

On Wednesday night, March 13, the Zoning Board of Appeals in the city of Warren held a public hearing meeting with a large agenda. The room was packed with residents where the majority of them came to protest the request for a variance in order to allow a former strip club called Jon Jon's to re-open.

Imam Mustapha Elturk along with members of the IONA community attended the public hearing. More than a dozen pastors from different churches and community leaders were present to speak out against such a negative and immoral business seeking permission to operate in our community. Imam Elturk presented and read a letter to the zoning board on behalf of the IONA Muslim community of Warren. Attached is a copy of the letter.

The voices and concerns of the residents were heard and recognized. The zoning board unanimously denied the request for variance on grounds of non-compliance with zoning requirements.

We thank Allah (SWT) for giving us the strength to exercise our religious and civic duty of promoting what is right and forbidding evil while keeping our neighborhoods and community safe from this kind of business.

END

The Islamic Organization of North America, IONA, is a non-violent movement whose aim is to promote and struggle for Justice.

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ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of NORTH AMERICA

March 13, 2013

Zoning Board of Appeals
Office of the city Council
5460 Arden Rd, Ste. 505
Warren, MI 48092

cc: Warren City Council Secretary

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals Members,

On behalf of the IONA community in the city of Warren, I write to you, the Zoning Board of Appeals, to voice our concern and opposition to the request by Warren Property Investments, LLC for a variance that would allow for the re-opening of a sexually oriented business at 28039 Mound Road.

A business serving alcohol at night this close to a residential area is bad enough, but a sexually oriented business is, for our community, an immoral and dangerous entity that will bring all the criminal elements and behavior that is in its nature. Our children attend school and day care within the vicinity of this building. We do not want our children, especially our daughters and young women to have to live near a place that insults the dignity of and sexually objectifies the female gender. We do not want our sons, our young men, to believe that females *can* be objectified as a sex object.

The peace of our neighborhood will be forever shattered with noise, loud music, drunkenness and lewd conduct, the dangers of drivers under the influence of alcohol, possible violence outside the club, loitering, possible drug trafficking, and the possible sound of police sirens at night.

Our great city of Warren has progressed so much in the last decade. Some of our community members are immigrants but many of us are native born. Our community chose to live in the city of Warren because of security and inclusion as well as economic prosperity. We choose to build our community here in Warren because of the positive environment and we try to be a contributing factor to the ongoing progress of Warren.

On behalf of my community we appeal to you to not allow any variance that will bring a sexually oriented business into our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Elturk
President of IONA