



32<sup>ND</sup> Senate District



Dear Community Member,

We would like to invite you to learn about the plans to expand Pioneer Center services in McHenry by attending one of two meetings taking place **Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at Pioneer Center (4031 Dayton St., McHenry)**. The first meeting will be held at 2 p.m. followed by a second meeting at 6 p.m.

The goal of these meetings is to inform residents and businesses about the newly formed partnership between Pioneer Center and the Chapel of McHenry to establish a homeless shelter at the Chapel. The City of McHenry has approved the planning and zoning changes to accommodate this partnership.

Pioneer has proudly served the homeless at our PADS emergency shelter in Woodstock, but due to space limitations has not been able to provide the necessary shelter beds every single day of the year. We are appreciative and grateful that the McHenry Chapel has risen to the occasion by offering part of their building space to help meet the shelter capacity need of our community.

In an effort to help fund this project, Pioneer Center has applied for a \$50,000 grant facilitated by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity.

To provide greater transparency to the community, State Senator Craig Wilcox suggested that Pioneer Center and the City of McHenry host these two meetings to give you a chance to learn about the proposed project, listen to your thoughts and hear your questions regarding the way forward.

For years, those in the community that understand and studied the reality of homelessness, have consistently stated there is a critical need to expand the emergency shelter bed capacity in our county on a 24/7 year round basis. The Pioneer Center and the Chapel bring tremendous passion, hope and capability to help those suffering from homelessness. It is their hope that the shelter will serve as a place for homeless to reconnect with the community and transition back to a successful and fulfilling life.

We hope you are able to attend one of the meetings, and we look forward to hearing your input.

Sincerely,

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