

REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

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“McDonald’s – I’m Not Lovin’ It!” Lakewood Residents Picket Proposed Drive-Thru Restaurant

Lakewood, OH—Area residents will hold a demonstration at **5:30 p.m. November 2, 2011** to protest the building of a McDonald’s restaurant at the site of the vacant **Detroit Theatre** at the corner of Detroit and Woodward Avenues in Lakewood. Protestors are concerned about the increased traffic and safety issues which will result from the construction of a double drive-thru, fast-food eatery with two entrances and two exits on Woodward Avenue, a residential street of over 100 households.

Concerned neighbors have spoken against the project at several public forums including meetings of the city’s Architectural Board of Review and Planning Commission. A McDonald’s site plan was approved with conditions by the review board in September. The next step in the process requires approval by the Lakewood Planning Commission. After hearing comments from both sides at a meeting last month, the commission postponed a decision on the project until their next meeting on November 3. The citizens’ group hopes to gather additional public support and increase community involvement at the meeting this week. They plan to stage another protest prior to the 7 p.m. meeting on Thursday outside of Lakewood City Hall at 12650 Detroit Avenue.

Built in 1923, the Detroit Theatre closed its doors this past January after almost 87 years of operation. It was the last movie house in Lakewood. The building’s owner, Norman Barr, is asking \$695,000 for the property located at 16407 Detroit Avenue.

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