September 8, 2007

Dear Georgetown Township Board:

We would like to encourage the board to reconsider the sign usage fee for nonprofit organizations. Georgetown Township is a wonderful community to live in due in part to the large number of churches in the area. These churches provide support to area families as well as many programs aimed at helping young people. Georgetown Township should consciously make an effort to support nonprofit organizations rather than charge unnecessary fees.

We are dismayed that a township employee would remove a banner from church grounds. This sign promoted a community event with proceeds to benefit youth missions. We received a phone call from the township asking for payment late Wednesday, September 5. A message was left with a township employee we (Rosewood Church) would be in to pay the fee. The fee and appropriate paperwork were filed on Friday, September 7, however our sign was found to be missing on September 7. A phone call to the township was made. We were unable to speak with the "sign man" but were told he called the township office on Thursday, September 6 at 5:00 p.m. to check the status of our sign permit. We are anxious to receive return of our sign as it is a rental sign.

Once again, we encourage the board to please look at policies governing the township's relationship with nonprofit organizations. Furthermore, it is rude and insulting for a township employee to remove an attractive, well-placed sign from a church facility. We also find it ironic that the sign usage fee does not apply to certain political signs.

Thank you for your part in making Georgetown Township a wonderful place to raise a family. Our hope is that attention can be brought to this issue and a satisfactory resolution can occur.

Sincerely,

Matt & Jill LaMaire
Barb Rogalske
Jill VanEck