

A Walmart SuperCenter may be coming to Swansboro and the developers plan to build it right next to Queens Creek Elementary and Swansboro High School and across the street from Swansboro Middle School.

In light of the decision by the Swansboro Town Commissioners to approve the Walmart SuperCenter development permit, a grass roots group called Swansboro Area Citizens for Responsible Economic Development (SACRED) was created. The objective of SACRED is to act as a clearinghouse of information and to organize community action for residents and business owners concerned about the traffic, safety, and economic impacts of development on the town.

Why this proposed Walmart SuperCenter should concern you:

- **Safety and well-being of our children** – Through hours of study, SACRED members have yet to find where Walmart chose a site adjacent to schools like the proposed Swansboro development.
- **Traffic** – The Walmart developer provided an incomplete traffic study and plan. It failed to include:
 - Impact of nearby intersections (e.g., 24/Norris Road and 24/Queens Creek) that services all three nearby public schools.
 - A Walmart SuperCenter may bring up to an additional 8,400 cars per day.
 - Swansboro's higher volume summer and weekend trafficAn improper traffic plan may create congestion and safety hazards for our townspeople and our visitors that can, in turn, harm other businesses reliant on easy access to Swansboro.
- **Crime (theft, drugs, assault)** – It is well-studied fact that crime increases with a Walmart's arrival, a fact included in the developer's plan. With the schools so close by, how can we ensure the safety of our children?
- **Loss of jobs and wages** – Studies show that Walmart actually reduces employment and the quality of employment. While they hire employees, many others are let go from small businesses when the presence of Walmart impacts their bottom-line.
- **Loss and harm to local business** – It is a well-documented fact that 25% of businesses within 1 mile of a new Walmart close within a year, 40% of businesses within 2 years.
- **Property taxes** – A Walmart SuperCenter will require local services such as police and public works causing increases in the Town Staffing budget. According to the Town's own projections, the tax income a Walmart brings may be offset by its costs to the Town.
- **Flooding** – This store will be built on a wetland area which is already prone to flooding. Runoff will go by (or through) nearby residences and businesses.

While some in the community may look forward to the convenience a Walmart would bring to the area, most everyone can agree that building a 158,000 sq. ft. SuperCenter next to our schools and in a traffic restricted location is a bad idea.

IF THESE THINGS CONCERN YOU TOO, please join us in our fight by

- 1) Joining us: register at www.sacred28584.org. (We also welcome you to our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacred28584/>, but please register on the website first)
- 2) Signing our petition - Search SACRED at Change.org or refer to the links at www.sacred28584.org
- 3) Take part in our letter writing campaign. Addresses, bullet points and examples are available on our web page.
- 4) Support us financially. SACRED is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run by volunteers who live in the Swansboro area and have committed themselves to this cause. Any monies donated go directly to legal, outside engineering services and other SACRED expenses. PayPal and GoFundMe options are available. See website for details.