

## More Political Talk About Homeless Campus

[Kim Fields](#)

January 19, 2007

Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield has been criticized for not giving the community enough say about his proposed homeless complex. But today the mayor spoke out, saying he's tired of all the talk. And now, he's taking some action by hitting the airwaves. "Less talk, more action." That's what Littlefield wants right now, but come next month, the mayor hopes there will be a lot of talking on talk radio. He announces his plans Friday at a news conference. For three hours on February 5, the community will have time to call in, to rant or rave, about the proposed homeless complex. "We wanted to make an announcement that we are very open to public information." And open, Littlefield says, to the City Council. Just Thursday, City Council Chairman Leamon Pierce told NewsChannel 9 he feels the council has been left out of the process. But the Mayor says that's not so. "I go over every week. We have a gathering with the council on a regular basis. These are my friends, and I know better than to not give them anything they ask for." Councilwoman Marti Rutherford says she hasn't been left out of the loop at all. When she has questions, she asks. "If I want to speak to the mayor, I call him." Rutherford says that she hasn't come to a decision about the Mayor's plan. She's waiting to see the final plan and budget before taking a position. "I am not the least bit interested in spending any additional city tax money." \$600,000 in federal funding is set aside for the project. But the Mayor says that probably won't be enough. He stops short of saying whether he'll use taxpayer dollars. "So far, it's costing the taxpayers of Chattanooga and Hamilton County over 7 million dollars to support homeless programs and the cost of homelessness community wide. I can assure the citizens and taxpayers of Chattanooga that it will not cost more than they're spending already." The public forum will be part of the regular programming on WGOW Talk Radio, February 5 from 1-4pm. The mayor says the opposition will be allowed one hour of time followed by one hour from the homeless complex task force. Each side will also be allowed time to take calls from the public.