

## **More Information About Problem-Plagued Methadone Clinic**

The July 9, 2008 *Tennessean* article about the Middle Tennessee Treatment Center (MTTC) did not include all the details about Nashville's methadone clinic. For example:

- \* The owner of MTTC, Dr. Steven E. Ritchie, is presently listed on the Tennessee Department of Health's website as being on probation for improperly prescribing methadone. The Board of Medical Examiners placed Dr. Ritchie on two years probation and assessed him \$5,000 in civil penalties and costs in January 2005.
- \* The clinic's corporate registration with the Secretary of State's office lapsed in 2006 and was administratively dissolved (SOS control no. 0359277); however, the clinic continues to operate. MTTC's parent company, The Richli Group LCC, is properly registered.
- \* According to the Metro Police Department, there have been 141 police visits to the clinic from 2004 to July 2008, ranging from burglary and disorderly conduct to assaults, thefts and "criminal vice activity." This is an average of one police visit every 12 days for the past 4 1/2 years.
- \* MTTC was reportedly cited recently for a violation by the State Narcotics Agency; details will be forthcoming.
- \* As detailed in the recent *Tennessean* article, MTTC has been improperly disposing of patient records, including Social Security numbers, names, addresses, phone numbers, counseling notes and medical insurance information. A complaint has been filed with the U.S. Dept. of Health, Office of Civil Rights.

So how does this relate to Gus Puryear? G.A.P. Realty #1 owns the property and building where the methadone clinic is located. The chief manager and 50% owner of G.A.P. Realty #1 is Gus A. Puryear IV. Although Mr. Puryear can't be held responsible for MTTC's shortcomings, the clinic's ongoing problems reflect poorly on Mr. Puryear's judgment in maintaining MTTC as a tenant despite its questionable track record.