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She said she would work with the city administration to see what could be done to keep businesses such as these from abandoning the inner city neighborhoods.

Aldi has been at the center for the past 10 years, opening there shortly before the church coalition purchased the center.

Wallace said Aldi has been a good tenant, and, although nothing can be done about the company's decision to leave the center, the coalition will aggressively seek another grocery to replace the store.

Cole said it would not be easy. "Grocers are not

beating down doors to get in Avondale," she noted. "The question is what are we going to do in the time it takes to find a new store to replace Aldi so residents have access to health food."

Audrey Scott shops the Aldi store for the soup kitchen at nearby St. Michael's Episcopal Church. It will be more difficult to operate the service if groceries have to be purchased at a more expensive store, she said.

Jackie Humphries said she is a loyal Aldi customer who will have to drive to the store at Winton and Kemper roads to continue shopping Aldi once this store closes.