

Chairman White and members of the Charleston City Council Real Estate Committee

I'm writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed resolution to authorize eminent domain to acquire the property we own, known as 43 Sumar Street in West Ashley.

We are troubled by the continued effort to deny our by right property rights, now most recently under the guise of a taking to create a park in heavily traveled commercial corridor and to accommodate remedial improvement of the intersection of Sam Rittenberg Blvd and Old Towne Rd, popularly know as the "suicide merge".

First off, the DOT Roadwise plan to improve the intersection has minimal impact on our site and due to the configuration of our parcel, the intersection improvements would have no impact on a future commercial use of the site based on a number of alternative studies we have done. This has been discussed at length with City staff.

Second, the proposed use of eminent domain is particularly troubling. We learned of this turn of events from the public media, while we were in the midst of active, cooperative negotiations with City Hall regarding their desire to acquire the property from us. Particularly troubling was the disclosure to the Post & Courier of our negotiations with a potential tenant for the site. This information was disclosed to the City confidentially and the unauthorized public disclosure is damaging us both reputationally and economically.

It is important to note that that since we acquired these properties 3 years ago, we have been going about our business to revitalize our properties with much effort and the investment of significant private capital. We have have been actively revitalizing our part of West Ashely in advance of the City's fledgling efforts. It is also worth noting that Faison has quietly supported local non-profit organizations including Operation Home, Teachers Closet, and One80Place. We have been a good partner to the City and citizens of Charleston and hope to be treated in a reciprocal manner.

I would have preferred to speak to you In person, however given the late date and manner in which we became informed of the proposed Resolution, I concluded it was necessary to reach out to you on the weekend via email in order to provide some perspective from the property owner's point of view.

I am available to speak to you over the weekend on my mobile number [REDACTED] or Monday in the office [REDACTED].

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

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