

Dai Thao
Community for Diversity
6066 Shingle Creek Parkway #1138
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
P. 763.443.6243

July 20, 2005

Mayor Kragness
Brooklyn Center City Hall
6301 Shingle Creek Parkway
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430

Dear Mayor Kragness:

We are most concerned about the council-members and city staff's abuse of eminent domain to exercise hostile take over of Asia Supermarket. We feel the council members were not representing their minority citizens. We also request a full investigation into City Manager Michael McCauley and Economic Development Authority (EDA) Director Brad Hoffman for discrimination and abuse of eminent domain.

Council members' actions show they care not for the minority citizen of Brooklyn Center. They did not inform the community of their decision to shut down the largest ethnic food store in Brooklyn Center which serves the entire west metro. While council members and majority Americans get their bread and milk from Cub Food. The Lao, Hmong, Latino, and African now have to drive 20 miles to St. Paul for essential food in the dead of winter. Hmong are proud home owners, tax payers and voters, our kids are strong students in your schools. We feel the council members were incompetent in representing us and understanding the social and economic impact of their decision. (Please see attachment A)

We also feel there is underline discrimination perhaps racism behind the decision to eminent domain Asia Supermarket. Currently there are blighted lands own by non-Asian left untouched for years in the heart of downtown, which should be propriety, yet no redevelopment is being done. The proper action steps would have been to inform the community and soundly relocate Asia Supermarket before any execution of eminent domain.

We ask that you investigate Mr. McCauley and Mr. Hoffman's conflict of interest involving Mr. Greg Watson, which was introduced by Mr. Hoffman to be a possible developer to Mr. Lee.

We hope that you will seriously consider the social and economic impact the abuse of eminent domain is having on our community. Such action can only cause the loss of jobs and lack of diversity and create a disgruntled community. Together we can find a solution that is beneficial to all.

Sincerely,



Dai Thao
Communication Coordinator

CC: Senator Mark Dayton, Senator Norm Coleman, Rep. Mark Kennedy, Rep. Betty McCollum, Asian American Institute, 18 Clan, Council members of Brooklyn Center, Brad Hoffman, Michael McCauley, Lao Family of Minnesota, Lao Veteran of America, Hmong American Women, MN Hmong Chamber of Commerce, Hmong American Partnership, State Sen. Linda Scheid, State Rep. Deb Hillstrom, State Sen. Mee Moua, State Rep. Cy Thao, MN Council of Asian Pacific Islander.