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FRANKLIN COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
ADVOCATING FOR A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER

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Franklin Community Advocates Legal Battle Begins to Expose Wrong Doing by Franklin Officials

February 17, 2022, Franklin, WI— A large turnout is expected at tonight’s 7pm Plan Commission meeting in Franklin. This will actually be the second time for this meeting to be held. Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan has required a de novo hearing, suggesting Franklin citizens due process rights may have been violated, when this meeting was first conducted almost 16 months ago.

When the Plan Commission approved the giant Strauss slaughterhouse proposal, they did so with little factual information, and gave no consideration to the many concerns of Franklin residents. The applicant, Strauss Brands, failed to meet their burden of proof, and violated the city’s Uniform Development Ordinance (UDO) in nearly all respects. As local resident Kate Seider put it, “I cannot understand how a giant slaughterhouse, that employs only one Franklin resident, and is being shoved into a quiet, residential part of town, would contribute to the general welfare of the community?” - a key requirement of all development in Franklin.

Kate’s husband, Kevin Seider, also chimed in, “how can they bring in 500 head of live cattle every night from Midnight to 6am, unload them into a giant kill facility, and *not* disturb all the area residents, including the unlucky people moving into that new, adjacent subdivision under construction?” He is referring to Ryan Meadows, where both Harbor Homes and Kaerek Homes are selling houses starting at \$500k+. A number of these homes have a direct view, across a retention pond, of the proposed slaughterhouse. There have been no disclosures made on either builder’s website, nor to any of the people who have purchased property so far, regarding who their nearest neighbor will be.

Franklin’s UDO also states that new development must not create any “precedent of incompatible uses”. As there are virtually no other co-located subdivision/slaughterhouse developments being proposed or built anywhere else in the entire country, it seems clear that these two uses are very incompatible together. Franklin officials have gone to great effort to create the “Loomis Business Park”- 155 acres of land without a single acre zoned for business. Two thirds of the development is zoned industrial, and one third residential.

Further concerning the local population are the future value of their properties as well as the TIF dollars being spent to support this unwanted development. Veronica Woldt, who lives 1.5 miles from the site was upset, stating, “how can the Mayor keep claiming he is pro growth? If everything works out, the residents have a development they all don’t want, and any tax revenue will go to paying off the TIF for 20 yrs. If this disaster would fail, we’ll all have to pick up the tab, not to mention what will happen to the value of my home with this monstrosity just down the street?”