



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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July 2, 2007

Sent via Fax

Mr. Michael B. Kwasman
Mayor
City of West Chicago
475 Main Street
West Chicago, IL 60185

RE: Annexation and zoning of 200 acre Klein Road property

Dear Mayor Kwasman:

It is with great disappointment that the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County received a Public Hearing notice for a Zoning Map Amendment for the 200 acre Klein Road property. This property is owned in trust by the Hinckley family, and the Forest Preserve District has been involved in active negotiations for several months in an effort to try to preserve all or at the very least a significant portion of this important open space of DuPage County.

In our repeated negotiations with the ownership of this parcel, the family advised us that they had no current plans to expand operation into this parcel due to the fact that the golfing business was suffering such hard economic times. They also advised that they had no current plans to develop the property for any kind of residential housing. Furthermore, the ownership of this parcel repeatedly asked us to reduce the acreage for preservation, and the Forest Preserve District has expressed its willingness to work with the ownership and consider both the economic and preservation impact of the various reductions this ownership has requested.

Now we find that the ownership is asking the City of West Chicago to participate in a prompt and unexpected annexation of the property, in what can only be viewed as a direct effort to increase the fair market cash value of the parcel, and increase the price that the taxpayers of DuPage County must pay to preserve this land. At the very least, the rushed timing of this annexation clearly seems to be an effort to put the taxpayers of DuPage County at a significant disadvantage.

The West Branch Forest Preserve is to the East of the subject property and contains 553 plant species and 231 wildlife species, including 10 species listed as either threatened or endangered in Illinois. Also, 22 species are listed as Species in Greatest

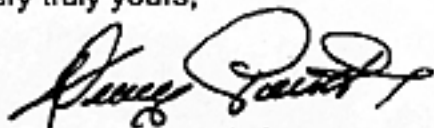
Need of Conservation by IDNR. I have attached a report from John Oldenburg, which details the existing natural resources of the West Branch Forest Preserve and potential impacts of development of the subject property. The Forest Preserve District staff has rated the subject property as the number 1 purchase opportunity in DuPage County with the recent bond proceeds from the November 2006 referendum, which was approved by nearly 67% of the voters of DuPage County.

Preservation of the 200 acre parcel sought to be annexed is important because this parcel drains directly into the West Branch Forest Preserve, and then into the West Branch DuPage River. The addition of the property to the West Branch Forest Preserve would maintain and enhance the water quality of the West Branch DuPage River. Also, the purchase of this parcel would maintain and enhance the current wildlife use of this important preserve.

Until negotiations between the ownership of this parcel and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County are completed, efforts to annex the property should be put on hold. It is our belief that the City of West Chicago should not be a participant in what is clearly an active effort to try to force the taxpayers of this County to pay an increased amount of money for this property by completing a prompt annexation and rezoning, and then insisting that the property that is annexed and rezoned has a higher fair market value.

We appreciate your consideration of our objection.

Very truly yours,



D. "Dewey" Pierotti, Jr.
President

cc: John Waibiary, Chairman of Planning Commission
Nicholas Dzierzanowski, Ward 7 Council Member
Matt Fuesting, Ward 7 Council Member