



BRUCE A. KRAUS
Councilman, City of Pittsburgh - District 3

City Council President



Dear Oakland Residents,

I am writing in response to a general community concern regarding the ongoing conflict between the Oakland Community and the unscrupulous development team known as Oakland Gateway Ventures (OGV).

As you hopefully know, the City of Pittsburgh has closely reviewed the proposed project from this developer at the corner of Bates St. and Blvd. of the Allies, and has unilaterally rejected their plans. Our reasons for rejecting the proposed plan are well documented, and have been communicated to the Oakland Community via our partners at OPDC, the Oakwatch Organization, and the tireless work of the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning. Please be assured that their proposal is “dead in the water” until such time as OGV scales down their plan to comply with the city-adopted *Oakland 2025 Master Plan*, and the various tenants and regulations of Pittsburgh’s Zoning Code.

Additionally, it has been brought to my attention that OGV is spreading false rumors about using “eminent domain” to bully property owners into signing documents pledging their property for sale to OGV. This rumor is **completely false** and will never happen. Eminent domain is the right of the government to acquire privately owned real estate for **public use in the interest of public good**. Condemnation is the process by which the government exercises this right, by either judicial or administrative proceedings. The proposed use (1) must be for the public good, (2) just compensation must be paid to the owner(s), and (3) the rights of the property owner must be protected by due process of law. Obviously a private development entity such as OGV has no right to such powers, and their suggestion that they City of Pittsburgh or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may do so in support of their project is in my opinion a criminal misrepresentation of your government’s interests and intent.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments here and please do feel free to reach out to me at any time for further discussion and clarification on this or any other issue important to the wonderful neighborhood of Oakland.

Best Regards,

Bruce A. Kraus
President, Pittsburgh City Council

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