

Honorable City Council,

I'm writing on behalf of my clients GPMG Inc dba Valero Fueling Station and Harman Mini Mart and Avtar Singh dba Vape Zone Smoke Shop. Mr. Avtar Singh is the owner/operator of these businesses located at 1564 N. Blackstone Avenue. The City is seeking to acquire the property and displace the businesses for the McKinley/Blackstone Grade Separation Project.

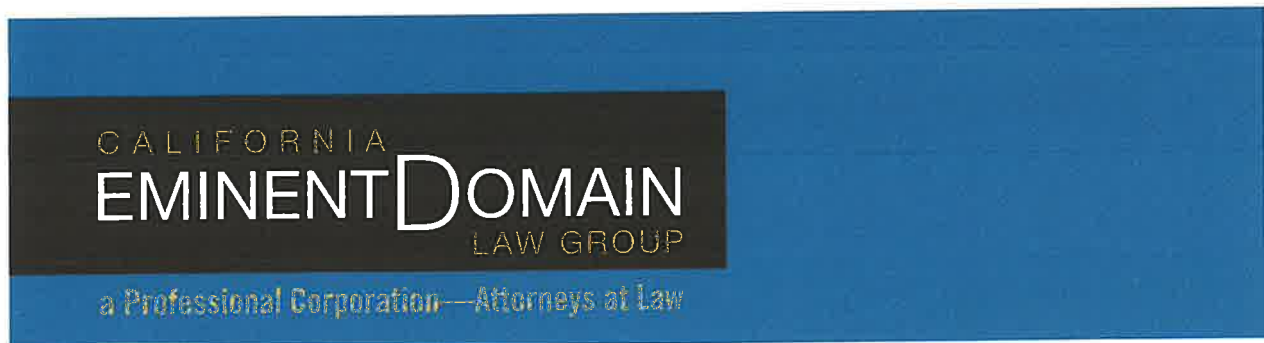
I'm writing because although the City and Mr. Singh had agreed to a settlement for compensation and damages to Mr. Singh's businesses – ***a settlement that is based on the settlement proposed by the City and its representatives*** – the City is now attempting to back out of the settlement. The City and Mr. Singh had a settlement agreement back in March, based on the settlement agreement presented by the City. Then, the City wanted to put the settlement through the pending eminent domain lawsuit. The City advised that the only remaining step was formal City Council approval, and Mr. Singh signed the settlement agreement documents.

Now, however, the City is backing out and saying they will not agree to the settlement that the City itself proposed. This is the first time I have ever had an eminent domain settlement that was negotiated in good faith and agreed with representatives and staff and of a City (or any other governmental agency) that was not consummated. I have been practicing eminent domain law for nearly 30 years. The City's actions and misrepresentations are in bad faith and constitute improper treatment of a longtime Fresno business owner. At this point, the City's actions have caused substantial damages to Mr. Singh.

I request and strongly encourage the Council to direct the City's staff and representatives to proceed with finalizing the negotiated and agreed settlement with Mr. Singh – and to present the settlement agreement to the Council for approval. While this will not eliminate the damages already done, it will at least minimize the damages and avoid further litigation.

I'm available to answer any questions and discuss this matter further.

Thank you,  
Glenn



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