

Alderman Robert J. Bauman

November 27, 2010

Room 205, City Hall,

200 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53202

Dear Alderman Bauman:

I live in Springfield, Illinois. Yesterday I was in Milwaukee for Thanksgiving break, and visited one of my favorite shopping places in the Midwest, Downtown Books on Wisconsin Avenue. I found the store to be a well-lighted, pleasant place with cheerful staff, and spent \$31 of Illinois money there.

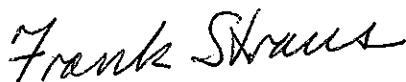
Unfortunately before I left the city I read an editorial in the *Journal Sentinel* that announced that there are plans to tear down the building (324 E. Wisconsin) in which Downtown Books operates so that unnamed developers can build a hotel, make more money etc. etc. The editorial writer strongly supported the hotel plans and I was surprised, upon reading the editorial, to find that the clean, well-lighted building where I had just happily shopped and spent \$31 from Illinois was really a dank, empty place loaded with boarded-up windows and graffiti.

I don't know where the *Journal Sentinel* editorial board meets and does its business, but maybe they are headquartered in downtown Milwaukee. Perhaps they could send out someone to look at the buildings and jobs that they are condemning. I urge them to do so. A bit of sleuthing on the Internet – useful invention, that – suggested to this skeptical reader that instead of checking out Downtown Books, the *Journal Sentinel's* tireless editorial board had conscientiously interviewed a Mr. Evan Zeppos, described in numerous places as a “spokesman for the developers.” The editorial board xeroxed numerous “talking points” made this month by Mr. Zeppos. I hope the developers are paying him well.

If the Milwaukee City Council wants downtown Milwaukee to look like Chicago, then they should approve these hotel plans. My state's biggest city had a fire that burnt down everything built before 1871, and I think your city is getting jealous.

Please make whatever use of this letter best suits you. I am sending a copy to the bookstore.

With best wishes,



Frank Straus

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