



Slaughter
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City Officials Continue to Ignore Community Outrage Over Proposed Slaughterhouse

November 4, 2019, Milwaukee, WI—A coalition of local residents and [community groups](#) who oppose the City of Milwaukee's efforts to bring the Strauss Brands slaughterhouse into District 7's residential neighborhood continue their concerns over how City Officials work to advance the deal.

Although [Strauss Brands announced](#) on October 21, 2019, "We are no longer pursuing relocation to Century City," the City of Milwaukee's Common Council President, Ashanti Hamilton, is in favor of leaving the deal on the table. According to [Urban Milwaukee](#), Hamilton instructed that Khalif Rainey, chair of the Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee and District 7 Alderman, remove the Strauss files from the Tuesday morning meeting agenda with less than 24 hours notice. In addition, last week a meeting was held without proper public notice to invite Strauss Brands back to the table.

Residents and community groups outraged over the proposed Strauss Brands deal find Hamilton's move to keep the Strauss Brands file open out of line given the overwhelming opposition including from several Common Council members, including Alderman Rainey in a [press release](#) on October 18, 2019.

These concerns include how the neighborhood and local businesses would suffer from pollution and stench, runoff, increased worker injuries, PTSD, decreased real estate values and traffic delays from trucking in 500 live animals per day. No matter how efficient or high-tech a slaughterhouse, these issues will remain. There is not another major city in the United States bringing a slaughterhouse into a residential area.

According to Vaun Mayes, a former Strauss Brands worker and ComForce MKE Community activist/advocate, "I must also stand in opposition. The experience of seeing live animals come in, and the method in which we take turns butchering the life from adults and young calves, usually covered in feces and blood, can affect a person subconsciously, and mentally in general. When I saw the name of the company exposed during the protests, I immediately cringed. Additionally, I also saw the environmental cons of placing a plant like that in the middle of our already poisoned, ravished, downtrodden community. To that, I must stand in unison and say that this should be a no for all involved. I'm sure we should be able to do a lot better with bringing in a better employer."

"It is concerning that elected officials and others in local government failed to inform residents of their intention to relocate a rural meat packing operation to urban, residential Sherman Park area, and that they quietly changed the zoning protections for Century City," says 32 year home owner and resident of the 7th District, Robin Bean. "We ask Khalif Rainey to take steps to reinstate zoning protections to Century City along with assurances of full disclosure of any future plans for development."



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Mayor Barrett, who is up for re-election in February 2020, is largely in favor of bringing the Strauss slaughterhouse to Century City [claiming it would bring 250 jobs to the area](#), despite the fact that a majority of Strauss employees who work at the Franklin location already live within Milwaukee's city limits. Senator Lena Taylor, who is also running for Mayor, [is in opposition to Strauss coming to Milwaukee](#).

Also in favor of keeping the deal on the table for Strauss is Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce President, Tim Sheehy. Sheehy [blames community members and Common Council members](#) for the failed Strauss deal insinuating that this is the best option for Century City, despite the overwhelming concerns the public has voiced.

The Century City Business Park has clearly not met its original goals as set back in 2005 after much research and development and promises to the neighbors. It also specifically prohibited slaughterhouses and tanneries from acceptable land uses until two weeks ago when the City of Milwaukee's DCD, a seven member Redevelopment group appointed by Mayor Barrett, met without any public present and amended the zoning laws to allow slaughterhouses as an acceptable business type.

Residents and community members will continue to closely monitor all future developments and demand that the City of Milwaukee close this deal once and for all.

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