

**From:** [Renee Glembin](#)  
**To:** [Johnson, Cavalier](#); [Kovac, Nik](#); [Stamper II, Russell](#); [Bauman, Robert](#); [Dodd, Nikiya](#); [Coggs, Milele](#); [Rainey, Khalif](#); [Donovan, Robert](#); [Lewis, Chantia](#); [Murphy, Michael \(Alderman\)](#); [Borkowski, Mark](#); [Perez, Jose](#); [Spiker, Scott](#); [Zielinski, Tony](#); [Lee, Chris](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor Tom Barrett](#)  
**Subject:** No Slaughterhouse MKE  
**Date:** Sunday, October 20, 2019 7:48:50 PM

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Renee Lynn Glembin  
2147 North 52nd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(414) 736-6129

Monday October 21st

Dear Milwaukee Council Members:

I am writing you today with **respect from a real place of concern** about the proposed acquisition by the Strauss Brand LLC of the Century City property.

In full disclosure, I am a white woman who has lived in Milwaukee her whole life, a teacher at Shorewood High School down the street, an animal and human rights activist, a caring citizen who votes in every election and a social justice advocate. Thus, obviously I cannot speak as someone who is black, who is racially profiled or as someone who has known unemployment.

Although I fully recognize my privilege as a white person, I did grow up in a family that struggled economically, lived paycheck to paycheck, supported by a mother who worked at Briggs and Stratton, with a father who was abusive, alcoholic and never employed consistently.

And, although I cannot speak for anyone else, I can feel empathy and compassion for both humans and animals who are mistreated and exploited. Thus, I do not see the issue of animal suffering to be more important than black lives, but **I do not believe the concerns need to be mutually exclusive**. Why can't I, or anyone for that matter, care about multiple ways of suffering and exploitation and work towards the elimination of them all? Why, if I care passionately about one type of suffering, does that mean I do not care about other types of suffering and injustice?

Still, **Alderman Rainey** was correct in his statement about no one emailing him when a young mother was shot down in her car. I did not. But I did speak with students about it at the suburban high school where I teach who knew the mother's child because he used to be a student here. Likewise, throughout my career, I have talked to students about gun violence in Milwaukee. I will continue to talk about gun violence, unfortunately, as it continues to ravage our neighborhoods, families and schools.

I have also attended rallies in the city against gun violence and protested the visit to the Pabst Theater of then candidate Donald Trump with a Blacks Lives Matter sign.

I realize that violence against animals is seen as less troubling than violence against humans. But **I do see a correlation between the two**. Violence begets violence and there is evidence when a human being works in a facility that is immersed in violence and death such as a slaughterhouse there are **psychological and physical dangers** that simply cannot be overlooked.

There is evidence to support the idea that these types of “production” facilities are bad for the people who work there. **Please review the articles I have enclosed with this letter.**

Because I have not been unemployed, I cannot say how desperate I might be if I could not find work, pay the bills or put food on the table for my family. But telling individuals that working in a slaughterhouse is a great opportunity for them and this is a good, family paying job that they can be proud of and excited to work in for years is a fallacy. An outright **LIE** and concession to the politicians and mayor who promised better for the community. **The neighborhood and your constituents are being exploited.** The land is cheap because the city has not fulfilled its promise to bring green jobs, high paying jobs to the Century City site and it is desperate. And now they are saying: *hey, look at this great opportunity for your area!* No other area wants this, so let's propose it to the desperate people on the northside who we have ignored all these years.

What other kinds of businesses will want to move in near or around this facility? What people will want to walk around, be around those other businesses? When Potawatomi Casino and Hotel moved into the Miller Valley, guess what moved out? The slaughterhouse.

No one wants to see the pain and suffering of the animals and the desperate NUMB people (because that is how slaughterhouse workers report feeling, see articles) while they gamble and ironically, eat their steaks. Why? Because these places are gruesome as you imagine them being.

**Spend a day in one. A week. A month. A year. And then tell your constituents this is the best opportunity you can offer them.** You can imagine the horrors? The employee turnover? The chance for injury? And the fact that only 250 jobs will be made available to the community surrounding the area? And that they would **never think of having such a facility in Shorewood, Fox Point, River Hills or Glendale? And you have to ask yourself: *Why is that????***

Building a slaughterhouse is not a good deal for the city of Milwaukee. It is a desperate deal and not what was promised for the Century City business park. This deal exploits the humans who will work there. Likewise, it perpetuates the trauma, violence and despair that permeates much of the city.

**PLEASE, PLEASE RECONSIDER. VOTE NO TO THIS PROPOSAL. FIGHT FOR GOOD AND MEANINGFUL WORK THAT PEOPLE CAN FEEL GOOD ABOUT, NOT MERELY ACCEPTING A “PRODUCTION FACILITY” THAT IS NOT WANTED ANYWHERE ELSE**

**IN A PROGRESSIVE URBAN SETTING.**

*Thank you.*

**Please review the following articles:**

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/yp989g/what-its-really-like-to-work-in-an-abattoir](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/yp989g/what-its-really-like-to-work-in-an-abattoir)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/11/slaughterhouse-rules/309113/>

<https://metro.co.uk/2017/12/31/how-killing-animals-everyday-leaves-slaughterhouse-workers-traumatised-7175087/>

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**Renee Glembin**

English Teacher, Shorewood High School & New Horizons for Learning Charter School