

April 2, 2009

Kenneth Ortmann
Alderman, 9th Ward
Room 203 - City Hall
Saint Louis, Mo 63103

Re: LRA Property, Texas & Cherokee

Dear Alderman Ortmann,

The Gravois Park Neighborhood Association is opposed to selling, donating or leasing the LRA property at Texas and Cherokee to any organization created by Lindsey Scott or Incarnate Word for the purpose recently presented under the title ComeUnity Hub.

We are opposed to having an adult playground in the commercial district that we all strive to improve.

Ms. Scott goes from meeting to meeting with her pie in the sky pictures and ideas and demands that everyone get on board. She does not have a realistic plan, enough money or the ability to sustain her ideas. When told to create her vision in any near by park, for sustainability, she refused to listen. What she does have is a bully pulpit. She drags her friends and a reporter for the Riverfront Times around and threatens public scorn if you don't give her what she wants.

This highly visible corner property would create a nightmare for the commercial district, Gravois Park and the police department. Currently there is littering, loitering, public drinking, pan handling and drug dealing in this area. Gravois Park members fight nuisance behavior everyday and we demand that the police help us clear the area and now Ms. Scott proposes an idea that would give everyone a safe harbor. If this was private property the police would not be able to ticket our offenders to make them clear the area.

When Ms. Scott first came to the area she bragged about being a graffiti artist. Her signature is a heart. She is a constant problem for Gravois Park because of the funding she receives from Jean Dural of Incarnate Word. When you drive down the area of Cherokee known as Cherokee Station you see illegal signage everywhere. The bright green photo strips, also paid for with Incarnate Word money, do nothing to help the situation.

The argument that this empty lot will never have a new building built on it is not the vision we have for the area. Ms. Scott and friends talk about the empty buildings in the area. They never complain about the developers who buy them and keep them empty. The City of Saint Louis, the Aldermen, the Taxing District and the residents have invested large sums of money to hold the line on decay. When Gravois Park supported

the grant application for 1.4 million dollars to upgrade Cherokee Station a stage for Ms. Scott's performance art was never part of the plan.

The members of Gravois Park are ready to testify at any hearing Ms. Scott is able to get with LRA so that we do not have the same disaster she created the last time she was allowed to do a one day project on this property. She lied then and we have no reason to expect any better outcome in her future endeavors.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Ford".

Rita Ford
President
Gravois Park Block Link Neighborhood Association