

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Woodridge Village Board Authorizes Taking of Property
Through Eminent Domain**

(Woodridge, IL) The Woodridge Village Board passed an ordinance authorizing the commencement of eminent domain action on the 45 acre parcel owned by Community High School District 99. The property, which is located in the heart of Woodridge at the intersection of Woodridge and Center Drives, has been marketed nationally by the School District for intensive development uses.

“This property has been designated for open space for 35 years and it’s been zoned R-1 for 27 years. It has always been our community’s plan to maintain that public use designation and we will take the necessary action to accomplish that plan,” Mayor William F. Murphy said.

The Woodridge community has stood steadfast in its commitment that this entire parcel be used for public and park purposes. This commitment remains as strong today as it was thirty years ago.

“We have received numerous letters and comments from residents of Woodridge. The community is outraged at the plans District 99 has provided for the use of the land,” stated Murphy. The Village of Woodridge has scheduled a Community Meeting for May 31, 2005 at 7:00 PM at Jefferson Jr. High, 7200 Janes Avenue. “We encourage all residents to attend this meeting and become involved in this important community issue,” Murphy said.

District 99 has retained Newcastle Development to specifically market the site as “designated for intensive development use” and “ideal for higher-density single family or townhouse development”, marketing that is wholly contrary to the site’s current zoning, the comprehensive plan, the surrounding land uses, and the will of the Woodridge community and its elected officials. In spite of the public and often inconsistent statements made by District 99 representatives, it is clear that they intend to force an intolerable land use on our community, or extort us to stop the development from happening.

The Village has tried to work with District 99 for over six (6) months for the purchase of the property, but District 99 has refused to negotiate in a meaningful way, thus resulting in eminent domain proceedings.

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