

Village of Orland Park Media Relations

NEWSRelease

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Motion for Summary Judgment Granted in Orland Plaza Case

ORLAND PARK, IL – After more than eighteen months of litigation, Judge Sanjay Tailor granted the Village of Orland Park’s motions for summary judgment on the motions to dismiss filed by both the property owner and various tenants.

The eminent domain case now moves into the valuation stage in which a Cook County jury will decide the fair price to be paid by the village for the partial taking of the Orland Plaza Shopping Center property.

“There are 27 named defendants in this eminent domain case and a few of the defendants elected to challenge the legality of the village’s taking,” explained Orland Park Village Manager Paul Grimes. “This was their right. However, this challenge has delayed the case for more than a year,” he noted. “With the court’s ruling, the legality and propriety of the village’s taking of property rights has been established. The only remaining issue is the fair price to be paid for those rights,” Grimes said.

“We now want to make sure that the purchase price is fair to both the property owner as well as the village,” Grimes said. “The court will now move to the valuation stage to determine the fair cash market value of the property and assure that both sides are fairly treated,” he said.

The case has been continued to April 26 for a status hearing.

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ORLAND PARK

Defendants Not Entitled To Executive Session Materials

After reviewing three years of executive session materials tendered by the Village of Orland Park, Judge Taylor has ruled that the defendants who demanded disclosure of executive session materials were not entitled to any of the documentation.

The Village of Orland Park maintains closed session materials in conformance with the Open Meetings Act and in conformity with the Freedom of Information Act. Judge Taylor's ruling allowed the village to maintain the confidential materials in accordance with these laws.

"The Village of Orland Park works very hard to conduct all meetings in full compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act and to make sure that all information legally required to be made public is available on request," said Orland Park Village Manager Paul Grimes.

"The law expressly authorizes the Village Board to meet with their attorneys in private to discuss land acquisition and court cases," Grimes explained. "The village would be at a distinct disadvantage if our opponents had full and unrestricted access to our legal strategy and advice while they could maintain their own strategy as confidential," he noted, adding, "We are pleased that the court ruling has denied the defendants' demand that the closed session information be made public."