

October 31 comments by Cathy Adduci, Village President, Village of River Forest

Honorable Judge Kyriakopoulos -

Thank you for allowing me to address the court this morning. My name is Cathy Adduci and I serve as the Village President of the Village of River Forest.

I first want to thank Your Honor for your commitment to resolving this case in a timely manner, and the Village looks forward to the settlement conference in December.

We recognize there are many parties involved in this litigation and there are layers of complex issues to iron out. As Village President of River Forest, I feel it is important to make sure the residents' perspective is not forgotten in this discussion.

Since this litigation started in 2023, the property has sat vacant, blighted and largely untouched. The site sits right in the center of our town, in our downtown commercial district, across from a historic church and a busy elementary school. Dozens of our residents live in condos overlooking the eyesore, and our small business owners along Lake Street deal with the uncertainty and disruption. They are all wondering every day - when will this be fixed?

The site is not only a nuisance, it also threatens the ability for the Village and our fellow taxing bodies to serve the public properly. The development was expected to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual revenue that would help pay our teachers and public safety officers. Our hope was for this development to create a vibrant downtown for our residents and our surrounding communities. Our residents and businesses deserve better.

I know the court understands this condition is not acceptable, but I have brought in photos of the property to drive the point home. We need to see progress.

On behalf of the 11,500 residents of River Forest and our small businesses along Lake Street, I simply ask that the court remains committed to resolving this litigation quickly so that our residents and business owners don't have to endure this much longer.

Thank you.