

1025 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST
SUITE ONE THOUSAND
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

110 WALL STREET
11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10005

STORZER & GREENE, P.L.L.C.

TEL (202) 857-9766
FAX (202) 315-3996

TEL (212) 943-4343
FAX (202) 315-3996

March 6, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Roman P. Storzer
Storzer and Greene, P.L.L.C.
1025 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite One Thousand
Washington, D.C. 20036
(212) 943-4343
storzer@storzerandgreene.com

FEDERAL COURT DENIES MAJORITY OF WALKERSVILLE'S MOTION TO DISMISS
Town officials, private organization and individuals remain defendants in discrimination case

Baltimore, Md. – The U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland today denied the Town of Walkersville's attempt to assert various forms of legal immunity insulating its Burgess, Town Commissioners, and members of its Board of Appeals from liability for actions pertaining to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's attempt to build a place of worship within its jurisdiction.

In addressing the Town's motion to dismiss the Complaint filed in federal court—which alleges violations of the United States and Maryland Constitutions, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the Fair Housing Act, and other civil rights laws—the Court held:

[T]he Government Defendants have not met their burden of establishing that they are entitled to immunity for the alleged constitutional violations. They have not argued with any particularity that the alleged constitutional or statutory violations were not clearly established at the time they occurred, or that an objectively reasonable person would not have known that his actions violated that person's clearly established rights.

The Court also denied the motion of private defendants Citizens for Walkersville, LLC, Ed Marino and Steve Berryman to dismiss the claims against them, holding:

Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint pleads ample facts to support their contention that the Private Defendants joined with the Government Defendants to block the sale of the Moxley Farm to the AMC.

“This is a significant decision that allows the case to move forward,” said Roman P. Storzer, attorney for the plaintiffs. “Neither government officials nor private citizens should act with impunity when interfering with our most cherished freedoms.”

A copy of the Opinion will be made available at <http://www.storzerandgreene.com>.

The attorneys of Storzer and Greene, P.L.L.C. have successfully represented Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American, Sikh and other faith groups in religious freedom cases throughout the Nation.