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### Landowner in Ahmadiyya decision considers appeal

Originally published June 07, 2008

By Sarah Fortney  
News-Post Staff

WALKERSVILLE -- A landowner who wants to sell his property to a Muslim group seeking to build a worship center is considering legal action, according to his attorney.

Responding to a formal, written decision issued Thursday by the Walkersville Board of Zoning Appeals, attorney Roman P. Storzer, who represents owner David Moxley, said one option is to appeal in Frederick County Circuit Court. Storz has 30 days from Thursday to make such an appeal.

Thursday's action by the board formalized a decision it made in February to reject a proposal by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to build a worship and recreation center on 224 acres of agriculturally zoned land.

The three board members agreed unanimously on a 21-page document, detailing their reasons for denying the religious group's plans.

In August, Ahmadiyya announced its intention to buy Moxley's farm at 8939 Woodsboro Pike to build a worship center for 20 local families. The site would also be home to the annual Jalsa Salana festival, which would attract between 5,000 and 10,000 people each June.

Earlier this year, the board cited its concerns for dealing with potential problems created by the three-day event.

Board members cited more than a dozen factors used to make their decision, including traffic, the orderly growth of the town and the availability of firefighting equipment as reasons for denying the request. After 11 days of hearings and hours of deliberations and testimony, board members decided Feb. 7 to deny the proposal.

Storzer believes the underlying issue is hostility toward Muslims.

It is a "sad, sad situation," when Ahmadiyya members are not allowed to worship freely in America; many moved from their native countries to escape the same persecution for their beliefs, he said.

Moxley could also take the case to federal court to deal with potential civil rights violations, Storzer said. That option would seek enforcement of the religious freedom protections in the federal and Maryland constitutions and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

Dr. Syed Ahmad, Ahmadiyya's spokesperson, could not be reached for comment Friday on the written decision.

In addition to Storzer and Moxley, members of the Becket Fund also attended Thursday's meeting. The Becket Fund is an organization that advocates for religious groups at odds with the government.

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14 comments

June 07, 2008 @ 05:51 AM: **man\_on\_thestreet**

That's right. Throw down the race card instead of looking at what they want just doesn't fit in Walkersville. What is a sad thing thing that everybody sues on their feelings getting hurt instead of the reality of the situation. They aren't the first project not to get a variance and they won't be the last.

REPORT TO MODERATOR

June 07, 2008 @ 06:04 AM: **rscott25**

I hope they sue and lose. I have a feeling Moxley is boxed in now. He bought the farm not to use it as a farm, but to flip it as a real estate investment. I doubt very much the attorneys are working pro bono or contingency on this. A continued appeal would undoubtedly cost Moxley alot of money. Maybe he is just inherently rich and is doing this in principal, but I doubt it. As I posted several months ago, Ahmadiyya said they would not appeal, but I would question who

is paying the legal bills of Mr. Storzor? See, that would be the most the sneaky thing to do. Moxley the plaintiff, Storzor the attorney, and Ahmadiyya the bankroller. Mark my words, they have not given up and this also would demonstrate their trustworthiness as a neighbor. The said they would look elsewhere if they lost this hearing, but I bet if Moxley wins....guess whom the purchaser would be? This is not over yet folks. Perhaps FNP would do some investigative reporting for a change and investigate the money trail here.

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 06:10 AM: [quemzeee2](#)

With the advent of Mr.Obama as canadate for Pres. And the overwhelming love for Oprah W. Does any one realize there is no racism left in Amercia. It simply does not exist except with the quiet, lower level things that people do that are deciefull. To even consider this a race issue now is clearly trying to fleece the American Public,, Mr.Stolzer,and the Moxleys Need to be jailed for inciting social discontent,inciting to riot, and charged with bait and switch marketing. I will bet you much money, neither of these people, Including the main contact of the muslim community do not live in a multicultural comunity, such as in HillCrest. My point is. They are con men whose sole purpose is to manipulate the leagal system for personal gain. None of these pontificators live in anything but closed communities, How can such racist charges be levied. The actions they have are truly what is bad in America.

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 06:13 AM: [quemzeee2](#)

When HOOD college sold him this property,, Did they not put forth that this land was not zoned for his intents.. Yes they did, And did not Mr Moxley openly state years ago he wanted to change the law for his needs.. I belive he did so and i belive it was published.

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 07:07 AM: [srbmgr](#)

POSTSCRIPT: Jessie (the extortionist) Jackson, Al (where's my flock?) Sharpton, Louis (Black Muslim?) Farakahn - What do they have in common with Roman Storzor, Esq and with Justin (says he's an Esq) Hayes of Linowes and Blocker?? ANS: They are of the breed of the last American Racists, by Websters defenition. This group is characterized by using the threat of racial or ethnic insensitvity against ones opponents whether valid or not [like a big stick!]. 1) The written decision was about a 10,000 SF CONVENTION CENTER, not about practicing their faith. 2) The Walkersville hearing was amazingly fair as a quasi-legal proceeding, I know after witnessing ALL of it myself. The AMC attorneys are not the least bit worried about letting the facts of the case get into the way of their cash cow, and will soak Moxley, if he gets suckered by ego. The RLUIPA Law is invalid if it is always a winning trump card [it's not] over local zoning ordinances, and thus this law will be shut down if this gets into the courts. Also, I personally heard Dr. Zafar say the AMC would not come to Walkersville if the people did not "love them back." We shall see if he is a man of his words! Are we a Democracy, or a Theocracy? --Steve Berryman. www.InfoServesMe.blogspot.com

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June 07, 2008 @ 07:44 AM: [grpckrplan](#)

I cannot believe that Moxley's siblings are letting him use up his daddy's fortune for this- so the money has to be coming from somewhere else. He made a bad business decision- he needs to live with his bad decisions like the rest of us do!! Mr Storzor- there is a nice parcel of land in Dumfries VA that would be very suitable for this facility-plenty of infrastructure-oh- thats right-to close to where you live-huh?

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 08:36 AM: [srbmgr](#)

Minor correction to my post above: 42,500 square foot CONVENTION CENTER. And: LastRepublican- your comment about "open to Muslims" only disqualifies you from the conversation; you obviously were never in attendance. --SB.

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 11:03 AM: [gphoebus](#)

last\_republican - try to stay on topic. Your killing U.S. troops to a farm in Walkersville shows no steady argument. The war is on, it will be ending as soon as their is structure and the Iraqi's can take care of themselves, so get over it. You cannot change the past, stop complaining, if you continue offer some suggestions for change. Everyone is tired of hearing about complaining about a war. Also, you and some others on here can offer suggestions of how to fight terrorism effectively, that would be great too. Until you have fit the boots of those on the ground over there and other countries who fight terrorism daily, you do not know what you are talking about. All you care about is the price of oil being high.

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June 07, 2008 @ 12:30 PM: [louise12648](#)

Religious intolerance is alive and well in Frederick County. For shame!

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June 07, 2008 @ 01:04 PM: **Doc-10-2-4**

Boring recycled article.

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June 07, 2008 @ 05:43 PM: **fnp.reader**

Iraqis support killing our troops because our troops are on their land. Get them out and Iraqis will not try to kill them.

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 06:42 PM: **lostboinmd**

"Storzer believes the underlying issue is hostility toward Muslims. It is a "sad, sad situation," when Ahmadiyya members are not allowed to worship freely in America; many moved from their native countries to escape the same persecution for their beliefs, he said."..... um their are already 6 places of worship in the area for the muslims..SHEESH I WISH PEOPLE OF ALL RACES WOULD STOP PLAYING THE RACE CARD....GROW UP...

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 06:45 PM: **karlisborloff**

It is Allah's will manifested through the Walkersville commission.

[REPORT TO MODERATOR](#)

June 07, 2008 @ 07:10 PM: **TRUCKDRIVING88**

How many of you posters out there want a convention center built next to your home? The AMC originally claimed it would be used 1 weekend a year, for 5,000 people,then they changed there count to 10,000 people for 5 days, doubled the amount parking spaces, added to the square footage of buildings. The AMC then stated the convention center would be the MUSLIM MECCA of the USA. This group is constancely changing its story. I can only invision a convention center that will be entertaining large functions on a weekly basis.

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