







Oklahoma

Known Condemnations Benefiting Private Parties ⁴⁰⁰

Filed/Authorized Condemnations   14

Threatened Condemnations   154

Legend  = 10  = 100

Sand Springs

On June 23, 2005, the day of the *Kelo* decision, Sand Springs posted its agenda for the June 27, 2005, meeting. The major topic was economic development: “The Development Authority will consider and take any action deemed appropriate by the Authority as a result of the Executive Session relating to economic development, including the transfer of property and/or the creation of a proposal to entice a business to locate in the Keystone Corridor.”⁴⁰¹

The City wants to turn the historically black professional area, comprised of 168 commercial and residential properties, into a retail center.⁴⁰² “The Lord didn’t send me here to build a minimall,” says Reverend Roosevelt Gildon, whose Centennial Baptist Church sits in the redevelopment area. The area also includes two other churches.⁴⁰³ Both Mayor Bob Walker and City Manager Loy Calhoun have stated that they will use eminent domain for the project “as a last resort.”⁴⁰⁴

As of April 2006, 90 percent of the affected property owners had reached

⁴⁰⁰ These numbers were compiled from news sources. Many cases go unreported, and news reports often do not specify the number of properties against which condemnations were filed or threatened.

⁴⁰¹ City of Sand Springs Development Authority Agenda, July 27, 2005, http://www.ci.sand-springs.ok.us/shell_blog.asp?pg=59&recordID=104 (retrieved May 30, 2006).

⁴⁰² Ralph Blumenthal, “Humble church is at center of debate on eminent domain,” *New York Times*, January 25, 2006, at A1; Mike Averill, “Sand Springs; Keystone Corridor buyout project buyout begins,” *Tulsa World*, November 9, 2005, at 2W1.

⁴⁰³ Michael Smith, “The powers that be; A multi-million dollar Sand Springs development squares off against a church that refuses to leave its sanctuary,” *Tulsa World*, April 4, 2006, at A9.

⁴⁰⁴ Ralph Blumenthal, “Humble church is at center of debate on eminent domain,” *New York Times*, January 25, 2006, at A1.

“The Lord didn’t send me here to build a minimall.”

agreements with the City. None of the churches have sold despite City officials repeating their threat to use eminent domain. The Centennial Baptist Church “essentially said, ‘We don’t want to move, and it’s not for sale,’” said the City Manager, who added that he believes an agreement with the other two churches is “close.”⁴⁰⁵

In May 2006, the Sand Springs Development Authority voted to condemn 14 properties, one of which is an occupied single-family home. According to officials, a decision about whether to seize Centennial church will be made at a later date.⁴⁰⁶ A week later, City Council members seconded the Development Authority vote.⁴⁰⁷

405 Michael Smith, “The powers that be; A multi-million dollar Sand Springs development squares off against a church that refuses to leave its sanctuary,” *Tulsa World*, April 4, 2006, at A9.

406 Manny Gamallo, “Church not included in a condemnation effort,” *Tulsa World*, May 16, 2006, at STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS.

407 Manny Gamallo, “Sand Springs council OKs condemning 14 properties,” *Tulsa World*, May 23, 2006, at STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS.