



City of Springfield, Illinois

Joe McMenamin
Alderman – Ward 7

Dear Friends and Neighbors along MacArthur,

November 23, 2011

Recently, I received numerous calls and emails concerning **Robert's Automotive** rezoning request. Some of these were in response to a door hanger that was widely distributed in the MacArthur Boulevard area by a neighborhood group. Unfortunately, this door-hanger misstated my views and it is important to set the record straight.

Contrary to the door-hanger's statements, I had never taken a position supporting or opposing Robert's Automotive relocating onto MacArthur Boulevard. I was uncommitted, but open minded to all ideas and concerns.

While I always opposed any B-1 spot zoning for the theater over-flow parking lot, which would permanently open the door to many unacceptable uses, I remained open-minded to the possibility of a highly restricted and conditioned use variance for Robert's if warranted by compelling circumstances and opportunities.

However, now I am taking a position. After hearing many well-articulated views on every side of this issue, I will vote "no" on Robert's Automotive relocating to MacArthur.

I will continue to reserve judgment on many issues as I did in this case until the facts and options are fully explored. I will continue to use my vote on the Council to renew our older commercial corridors while strengthening our neighborhoods. These are the objectives I have pursued as your alderman for almost seven months now. **Please turn over for more Ward 7 updates regarding MacArthur.**

Wishing you the very best this Thanksgiving Season!

Sincerely,

Joe McMenamin

The true rule in determining whether to embrace or reject anything, is not whether it have any good or any bad in it, but whether it have more good than bad, or more bad than good.
Abraham Lincoln