

WHO WOULD WANT A SMELTER IN THEIR TOWN???

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING??????

This may be your new neighbor...



Did you know Crystal City officials are committing the City to have a Smelter for the next 100 years, with virtually no public involvement. They've done no studies and have no answers.

When asked, "Do you know how much water will be needed from our public water system for this smelter?", the city answered **"WE DON'T KNOW."**

When asked, "Do you know how many tons of toxic chemicals will be produced each day by the smelter?", the city answered **"WE DON'T KNOW."**

When asked, "Do you know if this smelter and its byproducts will cause any damage or require any additions to our new sewer plant?", the city said, **"WE DON'T KNOW."**

When asked about slag piles...**"WE DON'T KNOW"**. Property values...**"WE DON'T KNOW"**. Traffic impacts...**"WE DON'T KNOW"**.

Of course, they don't know, they never did a feasibility study before signing off on our city's future for the next 100 YEARS.

In fact the only thing they do know is how to tear our city apart. This has to stop!!!

At least three council people, Pam Portell, Della Selmon and Dick Perry seem to care enough to slow down this disaster and we thank them for their common sense and courage against big money interests.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

A cloud of secrecy has enveloped this whole process. Public input has been thwarted at every turn.

The proposed tenant, WINGS ENTERPRISES INC., made all the city officials sign a confidentiality pledge with wording that said they would be sued if they released any information. This is the height of intimidation. Can you imagine silencing an entire decision making body? This is unheard of in the US government.

On October 15th, the City met in closed session for 5 hours with Wings/James Kennedy and his attorneys, Minmetals Inc and their attorneys and American Milling Group and their attorneys... FIVE HOURS. This is after the agreements were already signed and should have been public. The citizens who live in Crystal City had to stand out in the rain because they weren't allowed in.

On October 22nd, the city had a council meeting, 160 people got inside and another 29 were refused entrance. Only three citizens of Crystal City were allowed to speak but for only 5 minutes each.

FIVE HOURS for Wings and 15 MINUTES for the citizens. DO YOU WONDER WHO THE CITY REALLY REPRESENTS AND WANTS TO HEAR FROM? What is going through their minds?



Slag piles.

When the city was asked, "Will any public money go into this project, the city said NO, NONE. Ask the City who has been paying legal fees to the law firm hired to handle this smelter? If there is no public money, why did the city sign a lease that requires them to cover additional insurance at the city's cost. That money is ours.. It's public money, WHY DID THEY SAY THEY WEREN'T SPENDING ANY PUBLIC MONEY?"

When asked, "Are the Chinese involved with this smelter, the City said NO and Kennedy said, "No, do I look Chinese to you?" Why would they say NO when the Mayor and Kennedy went to Andrews Restaurant in May 2007 with 7 Chinese businessmen? WHY DELIBERATELY DECEIVE THE CITIZENS?"

WHAT IS THE CITY HIDING FROM CRYSTAL CITY RESIDENTS???

In an email from PPG to the City dated August 30, 2007, 3:35 p.m., PPG's lawyer is asking about a planned public meeting to be held at the High School and he says "IF THE PUBLIC KNOWS WHO HE IS THEY ARE GOING TO GRILL HIM, RIGHT?. IS IT THE CONTACT FROM CHINA? DOES HE SPEAK ENGLISH WELL?"

The city answered back at 3:54 p.m., same day the following: "THE MEETING ON THE 5TH WILL HELP ALLVIAE MOST OF THE RUMORS THAT HAVE PEOPLE STIRRED UP. OUR STRATEGY IS FOR THE DEVELOPER (AMERICAN BORN AND RAISED) to REVEAL JUST ENOUGH TO PUT THE CONCERNED CITIZEN'S MIND AT REST."

At a public meeting September 24th, the City was asked about the Bradley property. The city said they knew nothing about the Bradley property, and was not part of this deal. Yet an email to Kennedy from the City dated August 29th, 2007, 10:03 a.m., says "I SPOKE WITH MR. VANCLEVE (Bradley's attorney) AND TOLD HIM I WOULD FORWARD TO HIM IN AN E-MAIL THE PRICE FOR THE SALE OF PPG.....THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PERTINENT IN THE SALE OF THE HUG'S FARM SITE. " (Bradley's property.) And they say they didn't know anything about the Bradley property. WHY THE DECEPTION?"

It appears that the clouds from the smelter are blocking out the sun, Sunshine Law, that is.

Why, after the real estate contract was signed, does the city continue to have the attorney (we, the citizens pay) review requests made for information under the Sunshine Law?



Soot-laden house near a smelter.

IS THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME SAFE???

Think about it.

Do you think property values in a town with a smelter will appreciate? Statistics indicate that they either drop or stay static. If you want to sell your house, a real estate agent would be honor bound to inform a potential buyer that a smelter was coming. Think about it. Has the city researched this? If not, why not? Don't they care about your home value?

WHAT DOES THE 100 YEAR LEASE SAY?

The lease that the city signed has the following provisions that will last 100 years:

- (Section 15.1) says that the city shall cooperate with Wings in the city's use of eminent domain to help the project succeed as long as both agree. The city says that it is there for the city's protection. It looks more like it protects Wings. It appears that the only ones not protected are citizens who own property. Why would the city do this?
- (Section 2.1) says that the city cannot change any ordinances that would negatively impact the project.

For instance, if the city wanted to limit hours of operation, noise limits or truck weights, they would be unable to change the ordinances. What about negatively impacting the people?

- (Section 1.5) says that if the city ever wants to sell the property, Kennedy can buy it for \$1. But if Kennedy wants to sell he can sell for market value. Why can't the city?
- (Section 2.1) Kennedy can sublease any part of the city owned property, but the city gets no revenue from this sublease. Sweet deal for someone, not the city!
- (Section 3.3) says that if Kennedy can't get permits to put his smelter in the middle of our community, the city must help him find a suitable tenant and pay Kennedy 6% interest on \$2 million dollars that PPG has. Does the city get 6% interest on its money? Probably not, but we agreed to pay it.

WHO IS KENNEDY? For one, he is very secretive, but here is what is available. Wings was just incorporated in 2005. Its corporate headquarters is Kennedy's home. He has numerous UCC filings against him and has a history of paying some of his bills late. He has a \$300 million dollar loan secured by, among other things, the 100 year lease with the city. The lender is Minmetals Inc.

WHO IS MINMETALS? This gets more convoluted, but they are deeply ingrained with the Chinese government. The city said it was none of their business who Wings borrows money from. Since Wings is leasing publically owned land, someone at the city should care.

WHAT ABOUT THE JOBS???

First of all, the lease doesn't guarantee any jobs, much less to people in our town. Secondly, there could be other proposals that could create many more jobs than Kennedy's smelter. But, we'll never know because the city chose to do everything in secret. Jobs are a good thing, but some thought needs to go into touching all the bases and see what's available.

WHAT SHOULD THE CITY DO TO GET THIS TOWN REUNITED?

First and foremost, they should delay this closing with PPG because once they close, damages will start to build. There are too many unanswered questions and too much turmoil among the residents to move forward. This is what a good government would do.

Secondly, they should ask for help from groups that understand redevelopment proposals to see just what the market might bear for the city. A well thought out Request-For-Proposals is common practice. Our city may have inadvertently passed up numerous opportunities.

Kennedy may want to rush into his smelter, but the people don't need to rush into something that will impact this community for 100 years.

The council voted 6-2 to take some time and get some answers. Then there was the infamous 5 hour closed meeting, and magically 3 members must have seen the light from Kennedy's smelter. Wouldn't you like to know what was said out of the scrutiny of the public? But the secrecy is no surprise, as this whole mess has been behind closed doors since day one. That is no way to run the public's business.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP STOP KENNEDY'S SMELTER FROM RUINING OUR CITY AND OUR WAY OF LIFE FOR HIS PERSONAL GAIN, here's what you can do:

- Put a No Smelter sign in your yard, call 314-541-6983.
- Write to the mayor and your councilperson. Dave Picarella, Peggy Brown, Ben DeClue, Richard Mead, Bill Usher think that the citizens want a smelter in their town. Send your letter to 130 Mississippi Ave., Crystal City, MO 63019.
- Go to Clearpillar.com and get up to date information on this issue and read the actual documents for yourself.
- Write a letter to the editor of our local newspapers and share your thoughts...this is still your town, it doesn't belong to Kennedy, at least not yet. (E-mail: nvrweakly@aol.com, jeffnews@yourjournal.com)
- Attend a city hall meeting and see for yourself.
- The Concerned Citizens for Crystal City meet weekly. Next meeting is November 1st at the Festus Airport at 7pm.

GET INVOLVED...DON'T LET AN OUTSIDER DETERMINE YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE! THEIR HEALTH MAY DEPEND ON IT. SMELTERS AND THE SLAG PILES ASSOCIATED WITH THEM ARE HAZARDOUS AND DANGEROUS!! DEMOCRACY WORKS WHEN CITIZENS GET INVOLVED!!!!