

July 21, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Franklin Community Advocates and the City of Franklin Reach Settlement in Strauss Brands, LLC. Court Battle

Franklin, Wisconsin – In a joint statement released today, Franklin Community Advocates (FCA) and the City of Franklin are pleased to announce the resolution and settlement of a nearly three-year court battle concerning a Special Use Permit for Strauss Brands, LLC. This agreement marks the end of a protracted legal dispute that has consumed substantial resources in terms of time and expenses.

After extensive negotiations and a shared commitment to finding a mutually beneficial resolution, FCA and the City of Franklin have successfully agreed to end the litigation. The settlement underscores the parties' dedication to fostering positive community relationships and recognizing the importance of cooperation for the greater good. Dave Sorensen, Executive Director for FCA, expressed gratitude for the collaboration, stating, "We are thankful to have a reasonable Mayor who prioritizes the City's best interests above all."

The court battle, which commenced on December 1, 2020, has entailed a substantial investment of over \$120,000 in legal fees for FCA and had surpassed the City's insurance coverage, impacting both FCA and the City of Franklin. Recognizing the escalating costs and the toll it has taken on all parties involved, John R. Nelson, Franklin's recently elected Mayor, and his administration pursued an amicable resolution that aligns with their shared goals of promoting healing, transparency, and inclusion within the community. Mayor Nelson emphasized his commitment to moving Franklin forward in a positive direction.

By putting the court battle behind them, FCA and the City of Franklin can redirect their efforts toward fostering a constructive relationship and exploring beneficial opportunities for Franklin's future.

This resolution is a testament to the perseverance and resilience demonstrated by both parties throughout this challenging process. It signifies the fulfillment of Mayor Nelson's promises to the residents of Franklin, demonstrating his dedication to the community's best interests. Both FCA and the City of Franklin have showcased their unwavering commitment to the well-being of their stakeholders and the community.

The parties involved wish to express their sincere appreciation to all those who have supported them during this difficult period. Their commitment to open dialogue and cooperation has been instrumental in reaching this settlement.

For further information or inquiries, please contact:

Dave Sorensen  
Executive Director, Franklin Community Advocates  
Email: DSorensen.FCA.ExecDir@gmail.com

Kelly Hersh  
Director of Administration, City of Franklin  
Email: khersh@franklinwi.gov  
Phone: (414) 858-1100

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