

**Evanston City Council  
Closed Session Minutes  
Aldermanic Library  
Monday, June 23, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Aldermen Bernstein, Holmes, Moran, Tisdahl, Rainey, Hansen, Wollin,  
Jean-Baptiste

**ABSENT:** Alderman Wynne

**STAFF:** Elke Tober-Purze and Rolanda Russell

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Lorraine H. Morton

**START:** 10:20 p.m.

**Personnel**

**Redacted**

**Redacted**

**Acquisition**

Alderman Holmes presented concerns about the property at 1829-1831 Simpson. She stated that the neighbors were not happy with the owner using the premises as a business. They are also upset with the City for allowing the zoning change from R3 to a B1 allocation. The property had been vacant for seven years and other businesses tried to occupy the premises but were denied because of the R3 zoning allocation. The neighbors wanted to know why this occupant was given the privilege of a zoning change. She noted he was an artist who created wood products and probably sold items from his location. She spoke to the owner before he purchased the property and tried to get him to change his mind and acquire property that was already ear-marked B1. He refused to accept her advice and proceeded with his initial idea.

Alderman Holmes had also suggested that the City purchase the property at 1829-1831 Simpson. Alderman Bernstein asked if the owner would sell. Alderman Holmes answered yes, because when she mentioned moving to a new location, the owner stated he could not afford to pay two mortgages. City Clerk (Rodney Greene) was instructed to discover the buying price for the property at 1829-1831 Simpson. It was discovered that the property at 1829-1831 Simpson was

purchased for \$235,000 on February 22, 2007. The seller was Chicago Title Land Trust, PIN#: 10-12-419-0020-0000.

Mayor Morton suggested there should be a policy on "spot zoning" since there is not one in existence. This would avoid any confusion in the future. She also suggested that Council members should have a copy of the Contingency Fund report so they will have knowledge of how much funds are available at any given time. She noted that this information is very important to have when deciding to use the Contingency Fund account.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved to adjourn at 11:25 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Moran.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rodney Greene, City Clerk