

WOOD STREET COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Residents of 24th and Wood St. Continue Eviction Battle with the City Of Oakland



IN THIS ISSUE

**RESIDENTS OF LOT
REQUEST THEIR DAY IN
COURT**

**RESIDENTS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
VISIT LIBBY SCHAFF**

**NEXT STEPS,
MEETINGS, UPCOMING
ACTIONS AND EVENTS,
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO
HELP**

On the 5th of November, the City attempted to evict everyone from their homes at 24th and Wood St. The Wood Street Community has drafted a list of demands to ensure their livelihood. Residents and supporters of the community attempted to deliver this list of demands to the Mayor of Oakland, Libby Schaff, at her office in City Hall. Despite numerous attempts to get in direct contact with the mayor, they have refused to meet with residents.

At the same time, the lawyer representing Gamechanger LLC reached out to a community supporter asking about the list of demands after one of the staff members in Mayor Schaff's office passed it onto them. (More on page 3)

Who Is Fred Craves?

Fred Craves is the venture capitalist who runs Gamechanger LLC, which is a shell corporation for his main corporation, Bay City Capital. He makes his money as a biotech financier, with his largest deal netting him \$1.7 billion dollars in cash in 2007 when he sold the drug Lovaza to GlaxoSmithKline. This gained him the #52 spot on Forbes Midas List in 2009. He has made hundreds of millions of dollars over the past decade financing biotech companies.



**Fred Craves is
Gamechanger LLC**

Despite the fact that he has made more money than the vast majority of people will ever see in their lives, he has sought to fill his coffers even more by tearing apart the Wood Street Community. He has spent the past few years working with the City of Oakland to evict and displace the residents of Wood Street by leasing the land temporarily to the government to have them evict the residents. Even though workers for the local government have stated that a new Safe RV Lot will be built on the property, **no one has even seen a contract that ensures that the property will even be used temporarily as a site.** In fact, Gamechanger's lease with the City is supposed to be up before the supposed Safe RV Lot "project" is supposed to be complete. What gives?

The reality is that Fred Craves only seeks to turn the lot into another part of his investment portfolio. He has no interest in the well being of the residents of the community, and at best has only given residents a few hundred dollars to leave despite the fact that some residents have been on the lot for as long as 8 years, well before he even purchased the "abandoned" lot! **In fact, it was only recently due to the high level of struggle against the local government that he was forced to recognize that the "trespassers" who were on his lot were in fact tenants who had been living there for quite some time now.** This is why we need to continue to fight against the many forces that seek to displace and ultimately destroy the Wood Street Community. Only through standing together will we be able to not only prevent people's displacement and eviction, but improve the situation within Wood Street Community to the benefit of all its residents and those that call it home.

When the residents and community supporters went down to City Hall, they were able to speak to the director of Housing Security for the City of Oakland, Darin Ranelletti. Unfortunately, he was unfamiliar with the situation with the Wood Street Community, and seemed incapable of really listening to the wants and needs of the community members and their supporters.



Since the City refused to even respond to the list of demands that the residents put together, more action was necessary. Most recently, on December 19th, over a dozen community members and supporters marched down to Mayor Schaff's house to personally deliver the list of demands, along with a holiday card signed by residents and community members, and also a gift bag with satirical gifts. To the residents these gifts mirrored the gifts most commonly received as unhoused peoples.

Although marchers could clearly see Schaff from inside her Oakland hills home. She did not answer her door. Undiscouraged, residents continued to present their list of demands.

"The residents of the West Oakland Wood Street Community are demanding an end to harassment at the hands of the City of Oakland. Residents are being displaced onto the street with nowhere to go. For years, homeless people have been forced to live on Wood Street. The Oakland Police Department has had an unofficial policy of directing vehicularly housed people to Wood st. Now, as the lots are set to be developed, people are being kicked out of the last place they could park or build shelters.



The City of Oakland has not provided alternative places to be and the planned "safe parking lot" is months from completion.

The residents demand that they be allowed to remain on the lot until suitable housing alternatives are found for all residents"

The list was left at her doorstep and chants began to make sure the message was clear.



Upcoming:

Residents are not standing by idly. **Another rally is being planned for January 27th targeting Gamechanger LLC and their legal representation. On February 7th we will again confront Mayor Schaff to force her to listen to the community's demands.** It is imperative that we get all members of the community involved in this fight to continue to bring the heat towards the City and Gamechanger LLC.



General Meetings, Outreach, and Community dinners happen weekly.

General Meetings : First Friday of every month

Outreach: Every week, on a floating basis, please contact us via email for further details

Community Dinner: every second Wednesday

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