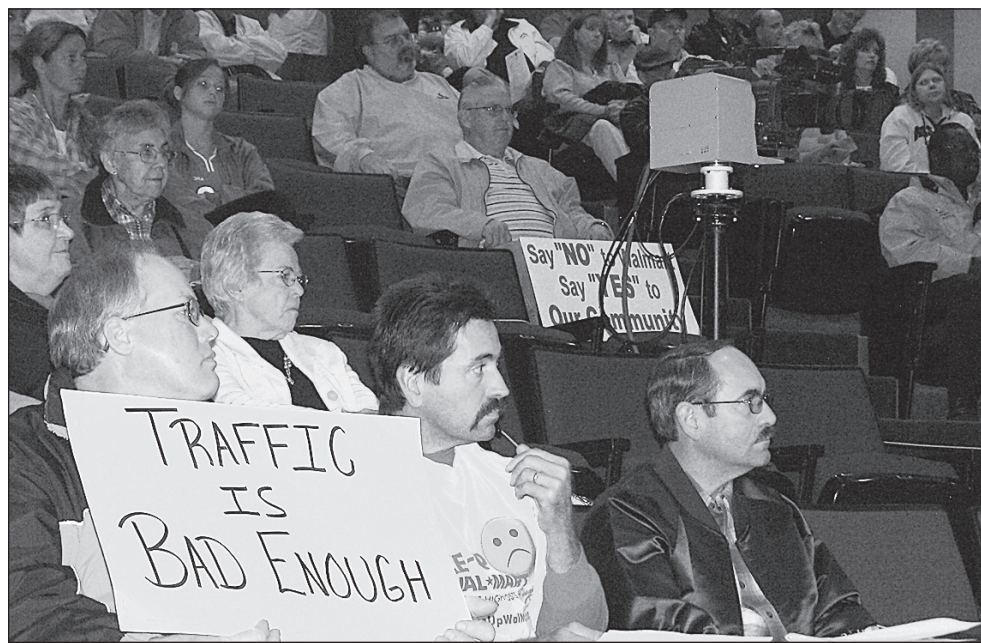


# St. Peters zoning commission delays action on Wal-Mart Supercenter

**St. Peters** — A Wal-Mart Supercenter was put on hold earlier this month after members of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission learned that the mega store could be in violation of the city's commercial zoning

is a big victory, he said. "I want to be a thorn in Wal-Mart's side every step of the way. They have to check out the legalities, but we're going to continue to fight wherever they are."

Dougherty said he wants to protect union-



A crowd of St. Peters residents, including many Local 655 members, packed the hearing room. *Labor Tribune photos*

ordinances and comprehensive plan.

A meeting marked by objections by Local 655 members and officers, plus the mayor of Cottleville and an attorney representing neighbors in the community sent Planning and Zoning commissioners back to the books to look at ordinances more closely before deciding on plans for the 37.5-acre site at Mexico and Spencer roads.

Jim Dougherty, president of Local 655, said the delay was a "big victory." Even delaying it

ized grocery stores' market share to protect union members' jobs. Local 655 has contracts with Schnucks, Dierbergs, Shop 'N Save, and many other groceries in the St. Louis area.

Dougherty raised concerns about Wal-Mart's impact on the local economy, long practice of discrimination against women and minorities, low pay, lack of health insurance benefits to employees and Wal-Mart's nationally and internationally recognized human rights violations.



## Greg Dierberg new CEO

Bob Dierberg (center), chairman of Dierberg's Markets, announced last week that his son, Greg Dierberg, will take over as president and chief executive officer of the company. Daughter Laura Dierberg Padousis was named vice president and secretary. As chairman, Bob Dierberg will remain involved in the company's business operations and governmental and union relations. Dierberg's employs several thousand members of Local 655.

## International dues increase

In order for the UFCW International and Local Unions to be adequately funded to sustain its essential services and programs and to continue to focus on growth, the International Executive Board has exercised its authority, under Article 18 (A)3 of the International Union Constitution, to approve an increase in the per capita tax payable by local unions to the International Union. In conjunction with the per capita tax increase, Article 38(A)3 of the International Constitution provides for a simultaneous automatic increase in the Local Union dues effective December 1, 2006. This increase is in the amount of two dollars (\$2.00) per member per month, or forty-six cents (.46¢) per week. One dollar (\$1.00) per member per month or twenty-three cents (.23¢) per week, shall be placed in a Solidarity Fund which shall be maintained until the completion of 2007 negotiations.

An Exclusive Twice Monthly Report For UFCW Local 655 Members & Their Families

# LOCAL 655 REPORT

Your Neighborhood Union [www.ufcw655.com](http://www.ufcw655.com)

Affiliated with United Food & Commercial Workers International Union



UFCW Local 655 President Jim Dougherty led a delegation of Local 655 members, who work in union supermarkets in the area, in opposition to the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Attorney Frederick Berger, representing a group of residents surrounding the proposed development, said the Planning and Zoning Commission lacks the legal authority to approve the site plan.

He provided commissioners with what he said was evidence that the Wal-Mart plan failed to comply with requirements of the city's commercial zoning ordinance, comprehensive plan and state statutes.

"Specifically, your comprehensive plan states that the city will attract high-quality developments with quality aesthetics. Six of the uses in a Wal-Mart Supercenter are not authorized under the ordinances of the city," Berger said. "It is a big box and not a high quality development, and for that reason you do not have the authority to approve this plan. It does not conform to the comprehensive plan and fails to create enhanced land values. A cow is a cow and a pig is a pig, and a big box is not a high-quality development."

The proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter is 600 feet long with two detention ponds and 1,100 parking spaces.

Robert Kelley, head of the Mid America Joint Retail Labor Council, which represents union grocery stores, and Robert Soutier,

president of the Greater St. Louis Labor Council, also voiced objections.

"If you want the front door to your community containing a building that is two football fields long destroying the local economy..." Kelley said. "Those who began business earlier deserve some considerations."

Soutier said he represented 9,000 union voters in St. Peters, and urged the commission to respect these voters and reject approval of any Wal-Mart plan.

"If you allow this giant building to open, what will you do with the buildings left empty because of those who go out of business because of Wal-Mart?" Soutier asked. "You can make Wal-Mart as attractive as possible, but there's no disguising what Wal-Mart does to a community."

Cottleville Mayor Don Yarber voiced concern about the negative impact of the proposed Supercenter on the surrounding communities of Cottleville and O'Fallon.

"Wal-Mart devours local businesses and lowers community standards," Yarber said.

The St. Peters Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to meet Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. to reconsider the plans.

## New website to keep members aware of contracts

### Stickers promote solidarity

A new website developed to keep UFCW members updated on upcoming contracts impacting more than 400,000 grocery store employees is accessible at [www.groceryworker-united.org](http://www.groceryworker-united.org).

Local 655 members are encouraged to visit and register on the new website so they may receive emails informing them of the progress of grocery contract negotiations around the country. The website may also be reached through a link at [www.ufcw655.com](http://www.ufcw655.com) or [www.ufcw.com](http://www.ufcw.com).

The website is part of the UFCW International Union CART program (Campaign Activists Rally Together) designed to create a communication network among members, as well as to develop solidarity for UFCW grocery workers' contracts next year.

As a demonstration of solidarity, members around the country are asked to wear a solidarity sticker starting Tuesday, Nov. 21 through Sunday,

Nov. 26.

Please contact your shop steward for your sticker. Wear it proudly!

