

We are extremely disappointed that a local court has ruled in an eminent domain action that a public garage does not constitute a public purpose. Eminent domain provides a fair and equitable way for public projects to acquire private land needed for public good—whether a park, a path, a road, or a public garage—while providing the fair market value of the property to the original owner. The City sought to design a garage that would reflect the active center of our downtown, which included an activated first floor with space dedicated to uses other than parking and residential space, as is required by our local ordinances. After the Court decided that the City's design, which incorporated an ancillary space on a portion of the first floor of the garage that was intended for lease to a local nongovernmental organization or commercial business such as a coffee shop or restaurant, did not serve a public purpose, the City redesigned the space to have a purely governmental use related to the parking garage. Unfortunately, the court has prohibited the City from proceeding with its public project under either design.

Currently, we are assessing all options before us and hope to move forward with a new, efficient, green public garage.