

*my copy*

28 May 2002

Dr. Ronald R Blanck  
Mr. William S. Le Maistre  
North Texas Health Science Center  
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Sirs:

After reading a recent Fort Worth Business Weekly in which you, Dr. Blanck, have portrayed me as not being cooperative thus implying that I am somehow lacking in proper civic spirit, and also hearing from my attorney that you, Mr. Le Maistre, said that negotiations would go more smoothly if we were simply nicer to you, I feel compelled to write to you. Apparently you both need a healthy dose of reality.

Do not entertain the illusion that your purchase of my property is a friendly takeover. Although I have bowed to the inevitable and have cooperated with you - ironically as none of the other landowners have - by allowing your people to come onto my property and even into my gallery, I have never wanted to sell. My studio has served my brother Scott and me and, I would like to think, the art-lovers of Fort Worth for almost twenty-five years.

Even though I and others have been attentive witnesses to a long-established pattern of osteopathic officialdom saying one thing and doing another, I naively hoped that I would be treated with sensitivity. I hoped that you would at least pay more than lip service to your oft declared intention to be a good neighbor to the neighborhood.

Well, your "needs" have now destroyed a substantial amount of that neighborhood and have marred forever the beauty of the Cultural District's internationally acclaimed architecture with your buildings of industrial charm. Some day, I have no doubt, you will destroy what's left of the neighborhood on the north side of Camp Bowie Boulevard.

As for my brother and me, you have effectively destroyed our business in the Cultural District which has been an unrivaled location for us artists for almost a quarter of a century. For this we have not even received an apology or any offer to help ease the pain of our substantial financial losses and emotional stress suffered at your hands. That would have been a classy thing to do. I thought you people were supposed to be dedicated toward easing pain instead of causing it. So much for the Hippocratic Oath to "First, do no harm." So much for your empty declarations of "corporate compassion."

Your offer to pay our moving expenses once we raised the issue tells me that yet again you have not been truthful, that you do have access to funds not mandated by our state's Eminent Domain statutes. Other corporations, conscious of their community image and with a genuine desire to do good, have helped those they have displaced with funds. Why don't you? I'm afraid that

property values you did not actually have that authority. I have been told that less than a year ago it had to be hastily pushed through the legislature apparently with no debate. I can not help but think of all the people whose property you seized in the last twenty-five years, whose lives were profoundly affected by the simple threat of a power you did not legally possess.

If you knew that you did not have the legal power of Eminent Domain and yet continued to acquire property, then how can your actions have been honest? If you did not know, then how can you be considered to be anything but incompetent? Since I have been in the area for many years - and I believe you haven't - I have been there long enough to remember the osteopaths' soothing declarations that they only wanted to be good neighbors. I even heard the same remarks at one of your public meetings many months ago. My problem, and your credibility problem, arises out of the fact that I can remember when there actually was a neighborhood. I also clearly remember official statements that the medical complex would not take Sardine's or the adjacent businesses along Camp Bowie. Your spokespersons have also declared over the years that the Monticello Shopping Center would not be touched, and that you would not extend your grasp below Boland Street or ever cross West Seventh Street.

I now see that Sardine's is gone and the other nearby buildings are being prepared for the wrecking ball. I have glimpsed your drawings concerning the Monticello Shopping Center. I have even been told that osteopathic purchases have been made across West Seventh Street. I just wonder when the people with power and influence who have the unhappy fate of being your neighbors are going to wake up do something about your long established practice of deliberate deceit and at last say "enough is enough!".

I well know how sensitive osteopaths are about their public image given their bizarre, pseudoscientific origins. Time and again I have seen you people squirm when revelations have been made public about your operating room blunders and the poor performances of your students on state medical board exams. It was always a standing joke among my college friends that if they did not do well enough on their grades to get into medical school they could always be veterinarians or chiropractors or even osteopaths!

*Some say* You have apparently cleaned up your act in the last few years or have at least hired a more effective public relations advisor. However, for those of us who remember your past and your empty promises and must bear the burden of your unchecked greed for more land, you people don't even measure up to the basic tenet of the Hippocratic Oath to "first do no harm." But then again I guess that is a standard reserved for real doctors.

Sincerely,