



## Port Targets City of Freeport With Eminent Domain

May 11, 2021

The Port of Freeport has nearly concluded acquiring all the privately-owned property on the East Side of the City of Freeport. The Port has used their power of Eminent Domain to take much of the property they want. Although the Port is legally required to pay the fair market price to property owners under Eminent Domain, the process is mandatory – the property owner loses their property and their home against their will. The City has been unable to convince the Port to develop elsewhere and spare the citizens of Freeport the hardship of losing the homes that they have lived in, many for decades.

The Port has now begun the process of Eminent Domain against the City of Freeport to obtain city-owned property against the will of the City, the City Council, and the Citizens of Freeport. The City has anticipated this action by the Port, and is fully prepared to aggressively respond.

Recently, the City met with officials from the Port in pursuit of a resolution that would mutually benefit the Port and the citizen taxpayers of Freeport. Indeed, the citizens of Freeport are not only Freeport taxpayers, they also pay taxes to the Port. The Port responded to the City's resolution efforts swiftly and clearly. Within a week of the meeting, the Port initiated Eminent Domain action against the City without any further discussions.

The City of Freeport is not opposed to working out a mutually beneficial resolution with the Port. A resolution that allows expansion by the Port, but does not do so on the backs of the citizens and taxpayers of Freeport. However, the City will not sit idly by and be trampled by Eminent Domain. The City Council has prepared for this eventuality and will vigorously fight for the interests of our City and our citizens.

