

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CONTACT INFO:

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## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- Spring 2003      A private developer offers to purchase the Stockbridge Florist & Gifts property for a \$743,000 value which included new land to relocate the flower shop.
- November 2003      Aware of the private developer's pending offer, Stockbridge city officials quietly rezone the Meeks' property making it impossible for the developer to continue the offer. The City of Stockbridge would begin preparing its own plan to utilize the Meeks' property which included condemning the Meeks' land, taking it by force, and then re-selling it to a private developer.
- August 25, 2005      Fearing their case was insufficient to condemn the Meeks' property, elected officials in Stockbridge re-drew their plans for the Meeks' property. These new plans include moving a proposed city hall onto the Meeks' property.
- August 31, 2005      Stockbridge Florist & Gifts labeled a "slum" during a previous city council meeting, City leaders in Stockbridge, Ga. begin the process of condemnation through eminent domain. A condemnation order is secured by year's end.
- April 3, 2006      After years of litigation, the State Court of Appeals overturned the previous decision and allowed, at least temporarily, the Meeks to retain their land. Only a partial victory, conclusions in the Court's order "do not prevent the [City of Stockbridge] from filing another petition."
- October 18, 2009      The new Stockbridge City Hall opens. Completed construction includes a giant brick wall surrounding the Meeks' property.

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