



A Big Win for Nonviolence in Franklin, Wis., but we Must Remain Vigilant

Update: March, 2022

Strauss Brands operates a meat packing facility in the city of Frankly, Wisconsin. The company has been in operation for the last 50 years in the Milwaukee suburb. Two years ago, Strauss was purchased by a private equity firm. They decided to expand operations and proposed a 152,000 square foot kill facility, with an additional 130,000 sq. ft. of cold storage. This would bring the total size of their facility to over 280,000 sq. ft., equivalent to one quarter the size of the state's largest shopping mall. This would have resulted in the slaughter of hundreds of animals per day, initially, with no stated upward limit as to how many animals could be killed daily going forward.

In partnership with a local organization, Franklin Community Advocates (FCA), our Jain group worked tirelessly to oppose the expanded facility, to put Ahimsa in action, and help defend the community.

In late 2020, the Franklin Common Council first denied Strauss Brands the permit to develop their new facility, after hearing considerable opposition from local residents. Just two weeks later, one council member altered her vote, and the city approved the permit.

FCA filed suit against the city for violation of due process. Throughout the litigation, the Jain community stood with the local volunteers to ensure our voices were heard. The court ordered the council to hold another public hearing on the project, which took place on February 17th of this year. Several members of the Jain community spoke up during the meeting and the press has extensively covered the proceedings since the beginning.

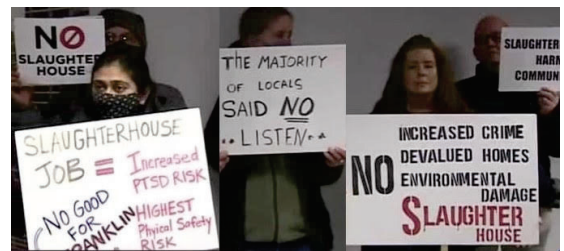
To our surprise and relief, before the hearing began, we learned Strauss had decided to withdraw its application to build the new facility! The company announced it would sell the parcel of land and abandon its efforts in Franklin. We were overjoyed!

Unfortunately, our excitement was short-lived. The city continued the planning commission meeting and ultimately approved a permit for a slaughterhouse, even without a named applicant. This is a very unusual step and again, rules were changed by those in power to get their way. We believe the mayor is planning to attract another meat processing company to the city despite the overwhelming opposition from his own constituents.

We are continuing our efforts to stop any slaughterhouse from coming into this community by all possible means. We intend to proceed with the case in state court and seek other avenues to enjoin the city from their deceptive practices. From our Jain values the killing must stop no matter who does it. We cannot and will not let our guard down.

Over the last two years, we have overcome many challenges together, and with your help, we saved the lives of tens of thousands of animals from slaughter while the legal process played out. The recent developments reaffirm that our cause is just and we will stay the course. We are grateful for your incredible support, and we hope you continue to stand with us.

Thank you!



A note from Dave Sorensen, Franklin Community Advocates

Dear Kamal,

I wanted to thank the entire Jain community for their continued help in defeating the Strauss slaughterhouse here in Franklin. Bijay Shah and his entire team (LCC) have been incredible. In fact, Bijay has been so vital and helpful to me personally, I've joked with you, FCA needs a Bijay too.

I would like to further clarify, without the generous financial support of the Jain community, I think it unlikely that we would have made it this far. As you know, I handle the legal side of this with our attorney, and between that and fundraising, there were days when I did not have the time to actually sleep. I've used this analogy with Chintan Shah (another key LCC member) -when I was at my lowest, I felt like LCC came riding over the horizon on a beautiful, white horse and saved me. To be clear, that is not hyperbole, but truth.

As of today LCC has contributed 54% of our funding, while FCA has contributed 46%. I will forever be grateful for the incredible generosity of the Jain community, and for the kind, lovely people that I have met. And Kamal, I would also like to acknowledge how your words of wisdom have renewed my strength and revitalized my effort when I have needed it most. From my heart, thank you all.

A friend of the Jain community forever,

Dave Sorensen
Executive Director
Franklin Community Advocates

DONATE



Please make checks payable to:
Love, Care, Compassion, Corp. (LCC)
c/o Kamal Shah
4392 Nighthawk Trail
Brookfield, WI. 53005

or

Please visit
www.lccnow.org
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