

Patel Caves on Eminent Domain ... and His Friend

MONEY ALWAYS TALKS

Ziggy Kruse



Many of you have heard that I am against Eminent Domain and the Abuse of such, but some of the many might not know that I am also always willing to help those who are faced by the threat of Eminent Domain, which could be used against anyone. ([Link](#))

In that spirit I offered my experience to Ray Patel, the owner of the Golden Key Hotel in Glendale.

It was an article in LA Curbed that caught my attention in regard to Billionaire Rick Caruso threaten the use of Eminent Domain against the Golden Key Hotel. That article made me reach out to Patel immediately. I conveyed my past experiences to him and that I've been "eminent domained" twice since 2002, both times affecting an employee and not so much as a business / property owner. However, I knew how tough it is to fight a government that is supporting its billionaire buddies.

I told him that by the last time this evil law crossed my path back in 2006 I was much more informed about things and had gotten a lot more contacts and info on how to fend off Eminent Domain successfully. One has to stay focused and strong and not let anybody bully you around.

When I first spoke with Patel he ensured me that he didn't like to be bullied either and that he was not holding out money, but that he in fact wanted to stay and redevelop his hotel on his own. He even had plans drawn, which he showed me several times. Next he was going to show them to the Glendale Redevelopment Agency (GRA) when the time was right.

The time was right around the beginning of February 2011, when he dropped off his plans to the GRA, in hopes that they wouldn't condemn his property in order to then hand it over to Caruso.

I was blind-sided by the charming ways of Patel, who kept on insisting that he was not in it for the money. He was so convincing, that I even repeated his statements to my friends who were asking me about the sincerity of him and his plans.

My gut feeling, however, was telling me something different. It told me to be careful and to not necessarily put too much trust into his words. Now I know that I should have listened to it. I guess a woman's intuition is usually always right.

I wanted to believe that Patel would fight off Caruso and his money, and that he would do so until the bitter end. I now had the support from so many people throughout the city of Glendale, the city of Los Angeles, the State of California and yes, even from across the United States.

Representatives from the Institute for Justice (<http://www.ij.org>) boarded planes from Sacramento and the East Coast to show that they, too were here for him on the day of the BIG MEETING (02-15-2011), during which the GRA would make its decision on whether they would let him keep his property to develop or to give his property to Caruso.

I raised my eyebrows when the Mayor of Glendale, Ara Najarian announced that the meeting was delayed, since Patel and Caruso were "talking in a secluded room". Is Patel selling out? - After all the media spectacle / press conference at the Golden Key Hotel and then shouts of "Let Ray Stay" from his hotel all the way to Glendale City Hall?

No, he wouldn't do that, would he? - After all, he wasn't in it for the money, or was he? - Did he use the masses, including myself, to justify his means? - I guess the sad answer is: Yes, he did.

The LA Times article ([Link](#)) spoke about the settlement between Caruso and Patel, but even before picking up the paper I received a phone call from Patel, assuring me that he didn't have another choice and that this was a family decision.

A family decision? Oh, please, give me a break!

When I first asked him about his family and what they thought about this whole thing, he told me that he kept most the strenuous parts away from his parents, who were in India during the first times I met with him. I met his wife for the first time and only very briefly at the spectacle in Glendale's City Hall the day of the hearing, which ultimately continued due to the sudden "talks".

In fact, his whole take on this dire situation was that he didn't want to burden his family with the stress he was going through, but he didn't seem to have any problems in putting his stress on strangers who were trying to help him keep his property and his "family's dream of owning the Golden Key Hotel".

It was okay for him to meet with me and others in order to gain contacts to the media and other victims of Eminent Domain Abuse, as well as contacts to high powered State Officials.

Though the experience with Patel in Glendale left a bitter taste in my mouth, it is most definitely something to remember. This will not discourage me to still share my experience and knowledge with those who ask for it on how to fight off the abusers of Eminent Domain, but I want the people to be honest with me.

Let me know if you want to stay and not sell your property ... and I'll fight for you.

You tell me you don't like the threat of Eminent Domain, but would be willing to sell for a higher more fair sounding price to you ... I'll help you, too.

You are not sure if you have the strength to go the length like Ms. Kelo did in Kelo vs. New London, CT and that you might end up selling due to the stress ... Okay, I can deal with that and still be willing to help you.

Just don't tell me that you Don't Want To Sell ... that you want to stay and redevelop your own property and that you are not in it for the money ... and then turn around and sell out.

In other words: Starting from the beginning please be honest with me and those who want to support you.

It's the Patels that made it very hard for those who really do not want to sell and become a pawn in a money game. Ray Patel made it almost impossible for anybody to trust anyone who claims to not want to sell. - I don't want to put out a paper and have people sign on the dotted line acknowledging that they are not in it for the money, but simply Property Rights in general.

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