

City Council Should Just Give Up

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To the editor of the Cincinnati Post:

Jeffery Anderson, a prominent Cincinnati real estate developer, really isn't a Grinch. I just said that to get your attention. He did, however, figuratively speaking, "steal" downtown.

He moved it to a multi-acre site at Edwards and Madison Roads in Hyde Park/Norwood. He called it the Rookwood Commons and Rookwood Pavilion. He attracted some of the finest merchants and restaurateurs that America has to offer.

I want to make it very clear that I am not Jeffery Anderson's public relations person. I met him only one time, but I am one of his many fans who admire a person that believes in something so strongly that he backs his beliefs with his own money. When our city fathers were bickering about how many millions of dollars they should give to Lazarus, Saks and some other mega-merchants to stay downtown, or to build downtown, he quietly built Rookwood Commons and Rookwood Pavilion.

It is a short distance from the downtown hassle and expensive parking and it boasts of stores the likes of which downtown has not seen since Gidding-Jenny's and other venerable downtown stores closed.

While Cincinnati Council members were beating a dead horse, trying to revive shopping in downtown, Anderson was riding a lively, white stallion out to a "new downtown" he created. It is barely ten minutes from Fountain Square to Rookwood Commons and Rookwood Pavilion. Even though there are other outstanding shopping facilities in greater Cincinnati, apparently city council still thinks that downtown shopping can be what it once was.

C'mon folks, get with it. This is the twenty-first century. Times have changed. Shopping habits have changed. The masses no longer want to shop downtown, especially at night and weekends. Stop beating that dead horse and accept the fact that downtown is mainly for offices, hotels, and sporting events-daytime shopping for those who work and live downtown. It's one thing for a good Grinch to steel downtown shopping and quite another for city council to not even notice that it's gone.

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