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**Smart Growth Advocates Appeal City of Spokane's Southgate Big  
Box Decision**  
*Decision circumvents city rules and state law*

SPOKANE - Today the Neighborhood Alliance of Spokane, the Southgate Neighborhood Association, Futurewise, and affected neighbor Ginger Patano filed a petition for review with the Growth Management Hearings Board to challenge the so-called "Southgate Amendments" recently approved by city council and left unsigned by Mayor Mary Verner. The Center for Justice's Rick Eichstaedt joined the team of attorneys on the petition.

"This case is really about a neighborhood's right to plan its future -- how it grows, how it preserves local businesses, and what voice local citizens have," said Rick Eichstaedt, attorney with the Center for Justice. "The City had a clear obligation to conduct neighborhood planning before taking this action and instead choose to ignore it to accommodate a small number of irresponsible developers. This flies in the face of our comprehensive plan and the intent of the Growth Management Act," said Eichstaedt.

"Southgate Neighborhood Council voted to be a part of this appeal because of the precedent set by overriding the Comprehensive Plan requirement for neighborhood planning in creating new district centers," said Teresa Kafentzis, president of the Southgate Neighborhood. "We aren't a bunch of NIMBYS as City Council President Joe Shogan suggested after the City Council passed these comprehensive land use amendments. Our concern is that the Mayor and other city officials continue to tout this as a model for other neighborhoods. Other neighborhoods shouldn't be forced into one-sided negotiations in lieu of real neighborhood planning."

Kathy Miotke of Neighborhood Alliance agrees, "Neighborhood-Alliance objects strongly to any notion that this is neighborhood planning - this created a district center while circumventing the City's rules and state law. It is further disturbing that our Mayor and City Council (with the exception of Councilmember Richard Rush) continue to call this a positive process. Spokane's neighborhoods should be extremely concerned that this process could set a dangerous precedent, that's why we're working to stop it."

"The city did not follow its own policy which requires it to work with the people of Southgate Neighborhood to plan its future development," explained Kitty Klitzke of Futurewise. "The neighborhood wants to build a walkable mixed-use center not an auto-dependent big box development on its urban fringe. The City has shown leadership in addressing global warming and the high cost of oil and we thank them for that. But this comprehensive plan amendment prevents a more sustainable neighborhood center from being built, which is exactly the type of development pattern that would go a long way to further the City's work to

reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and give Spokane's hard pressed families more choices that help reduce their gasoline bills."

## **Background:**

Southgate Neighborhood Council is an independent organization chartered by the City of Spokane as an association for the Southgate neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Alliance of Spokane is an affiliation of neighborhood groups in Spokane County with members in Spokane County interested in the proper implementation of the Growth Management Act. Neighborhood Alliance is committed to improving uses of land, resources, and energy so that the environment, nature, and overall quality of life is improved.

Ginger Patano is a resident of the Southgate neighborhood who lives very near the affected properties and the Vice Chair of the Southgate Neighborhood Council.

The Center for Justice is a not-for-profit law firm that is serving as co-counsel with the Futurewise attorneys in this appeal.

Futurewise is a Washington non-profit corporation and a statewide organization devoted to ensuring compliance with the Growth Management Act. Futurewise works to promote healthy communities and cities while protecting farmland, forests and shorelines today and for future generations.