

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY, DAVIS, IRVINE, LOS ANGELES, MERCED, RIVERSIDE, SAN DIEGO, SAN FRANCISCO, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA CRUZ



CHARLES H. TOWNES
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
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April 26, 2012

Mr. Zach Cowan
City Attorney
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia St., 4th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mr. Cowan:

As a friend and associate of Dr. Rash Ghosh, I am appealing to your sense of justice by stopping the sale of Dr. Ghosh's property at Dwight Way and McGee St. in Berkeley. This commercially viable real estate is being sold at one sixth of its estimated value. The property in question was also the facility used by the non-profit, International Institute of Bengal Basin (IIBB) for its activities in addressing the global water crisis and reducing toxics in drinking water worldwide.

Dr. Ghosh has invested his life savings in this property. For the past several years, since it was suddenly closed by the City, Dr. Ghosh has been endeavoring to meet the City's requirements in the hope that that he can continue the repair work in this property but until now he was not allowed to do so. And now, in spite of all these efforts in good faith, and even after depositing \$160,000 in cash to the receiver's escrow account (value of the accepted bid to repair the property), the city through its receiver, is attempting to sell the property.

It will be a great injustice if the IIBB is not allowed to continue its good work. I believe the city should also help its citizen protect their housing rights.

I therefore request you to stop this sale and allow Dr. Ghosh to repair his property so he can return to his home. He deserves this consideration. He is retired, over 65 years old with many health problems and has done outstanding community service through his non-profit work.

Thank you and I hope you give this matter your utmost attention.

Sincerely,

Char. H. Townes
Prof. Charles Townes
Nobel Laureate