



City of Bristol

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Mayor
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Phone: 860.584.6250
Fax: 860.584.3835

Contact:
William T. Stortz, Mayor
williamtstortz@ci.bristol.ct.us

Mary B. Suchopar, Exec. Assistant
marysuchopar@ci.bristol.ct.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ocean State Job Lot Overruled

Bristol, CT, July 31, 2006 - In prepared comments released today, Bristol Mayor, William T. Stortz reported that his office has received notification that Judge Kremski has ruled in favor of the City on all counts in the Ocean State litigation.

Stortz said, "I am thrilled to announce that Judge Kremski has ruled in Bristol's favor on all three counts. This is wonderful news for Bristol and for our efforts to finally move forward with our Downtown development efforts. I am equally pleased that the court also ruled in Bristol's favor in rejecting all of Ocean State's counter charges."

Stortz went on to say, "While it is expected that Ocean State may appeal, the strength of the Judge's ruling certainly bodes well for Bristol. With that in mind, I intend to contact Ocean State to discuss ways to implement the Judge's ruling in a final resolution that works for both parties. We certainly respect Ocean State as a significant local business and their desire to operate a successful business in Bristol. We encourage them to consider consolidating their two stores at the Farmington Avenue site and hopefully expand on that site."

"However, it is imperative that we move quickly and decisively so that we can finalize our efforts to demolish the mall and develop a plan for Downtown that the people of Bristol support," Stortz added. "This will be the basis of our discussions with Ocean State, and also the basis of our actions in the next few days and the coming weeks. I appreciate everyone's help in getting the City this far in this critical effort. It has been long and tedious, but we have prevailed and will use this ruling as the basis to move forward."

Stortz concluded, "Logic dictates that it will take some time for Ocean State to actually vacate the premises, pursuant to the court's decision. We intend to use that time productively in planning for the next steps which include demolition, cleanup, and developing plans for the site. The public will play the key role in preparing those plans. It is our Downtown, our City and as I've said since the Downtown concept was first announced, it is only with the help of the public that we can succeed. This is a happy day for Bristol because at long last we can begin to announce significant plans to move our Downtown forward in the coming days."

#