



# Schools and Communities United

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## MEDIA ADVISORY:

### **Community Opposes OSPP Forced Sale of Vacant MPS Building to Military-Style Voucher School Under Pending FBI Investigation for Abuse**

Milwaukee – (July 26, 2016) – Schools and Communities United, a coalition of community, labor, student and civic organizations in Milwaukee is standing together with our Riverwest and Harambee neighbors in their fight against a proposal that would force the sale of a vacant Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) building to Right Step Inc. at the Milwaukee Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) committee on Thursday, July 27. BOZA will be taking up a contract with Right Step Military School in what could be the first vacant city property forcibly transferred under the Opportunity Schools Partnership Program to a private operator.

Milwaukee parents and neighbors plan to express concerns about the safety and welfare of students that would attend this all-male military-based voucher school, among them a pending [FBI investigation for abuse](#), how the sale would affect the surrounding properties, and parking concerns that would lead to unsafe pedestrian and traffic patterns.

Reporters wishing to do interviews with the Schools and Communities United leaders or Riverwest and Harambee neighbors may also get in touch with the contact listed above.

**Who:** [Schools and Communities United](#); Neighbors from Riverwest and Harambee

**Where:** The Milwaukee Board of Zoning Appeals (BOZA) committee at Milwaukee City Hall, Room 301A

**When:** Thursday, July 28 at 4:30 p.m.

**What:** Community members testify against the forced sale of a vacant MPS building to an all-male, military-based voucher school under pending FBI investigation for abuse.

**Visuals:** Community members, Signs, No Takeover buttons

**Background:**

The forced sale of the former MPS property at 500 E. Center St. falls under a section of the [Opportunity Schools Partnership Program](#) that was included in the 2015-2017 budget. The state law forces the City of Milwaukee to sell vacant MPS buildings without a thorough democratic political process.

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