

Neighborhood Retail Alliance

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Memorandum

From: Dr. Richard Lipsky

To: Anti-Wal-Mart Coalition

Subject: Preliminary Budget

Date: 1/31/05

In moving forward in developing our coalition it is important to take note of a number of important points:

1) **Labor is Fully Energized**

The Central Labor Council and Brian McLaughlin are eager to play a primary role in support of the UFCW and RWDSU Locals. I have attended their organizing meetings and they would like me to sit on a great number of committees they are forming. This is all very useful but I think it is fair to say that a successful effort needs fewer committees and a little more of the shock and awe that we have utilized successfully in past anti-box store efforts;

2) **Food Businesses Need a Separate Attack Group**

After sitting in with our friends in labor we've concluded that it probably makes more sense for the food businesses that are directly impacted by Wal-Mart to coalesce under one umbrella. This is what the Neighborhood Retail Alliance was created to do and what it did successfully in helping to kill 3 Costcos on the West Side and one in Flatlands, Brooklyn.

Having a separate entity helps us to avoid the legal and jurisdiction issues of a joint labor management operation and gives the businesses greater impact and control over the direction of our efforts. This does not in any way mean that we will be going solo but it does mean that we will look to move in parallel directions with labor and, where feasible, jointly coordinate our efforts. Since I also represent UFCW interests this becomes feasible. Over the years I have been able to balance the interests of both management and the workers.

3) **Focus on Rego Park**

Our initial organizing efforts that began with a City Council hearing on box stores will soon shift heavily toward Rego Park and the surrounding communities. A site fight underscores all of the issues and galvanizes the media with an intensity that theoretical public policy debates do not. We will, however, continue to push for a comprehensive box store impact study as a way to simultaneously pursue the citywide public policy objectives.