

# Despite lawsuit, Petrovich begins work on Crocker Village retail center

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Though a lawsuit over the project is still active, site grading is underway for Crocker Village's retail center.

Developer [Paul Petrovich](#) announced that work at Crocker Drive and Sutterville Road got underway Monday, for what his company is planning as a [Safeway-anchored](#) center of more than 100,000 square feet.

Petrovich said it will include a pad for a Safeway-branded gas station. That station, which the Sacramento City Council [denied Petrovich](#) a conditional-use permit for in late 2015, is the subject of a suit by Petrovich against the city. A Sacramento Superior Court judge ruled [against the city](#) in the case last year, but the city is appealing.

Work has to get underway now to meet a lease agreement with Safeway, according to Petrovich.

But there are also talks underway to resolve the situation, according to a Sacramento community activist and radio host, to whom Petrovich referred inquiries on the

announcement. [Jay King](#), who's discussed the Crocker Village suit on his show, said he's gotten a commitment from Mayor [Darrell Steinberg](#) to resolve the impasse.

"I've been working with the city and Mr. Petrovich to come to some resolution," King said. "The mayor promised me it was going to get resolved."

A spokesman for the mayor did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on King's remarks. King noted that Steinberg wasn't on the council when the conditional use permit was denied, and that Steinberg had a reputation as a dealmaker during his stint as leader of the California Senate before being elected mayor in 2016.

For King, the issue is economic development. Petrovich and Safeway have pledged the store would hire 200 employees at union wages from nearby Oak Park, one of Sacramento's poorer neighborhoods. King said while there's a risk in starting work while the suit is still unresolved, it would be a bigger problem if the lease agreement expired and Safeway walked away.

"This is an incredible project for Oak Park," he said.

"I met with [Paul Petrovich](#) and asked him to make some concessions and work with the city," King said. "Now I'm asking the city to make concessions and work with him."