

2/17/15

Memo to:

Madison Economic Development Committee

Before you vote to donate \$300,000 toward a grocery store in the Allied Drive area, ask the managers of the stores that closed why they closed.

My husband knew the manager of Sentry Foods and asked that question of him. The manager said, "people here are stealing us blind!" He then related several methods people used. A heavy person, wearing a full length coat with pockets sewn into the lining, filled those pockets with expensive items -- mostly meat, then walked out of the store, a little heavier but who would notice.

Another method: a shopper filled a cart, went through a checkout, paid and left the store. Outside she emptied the bags in a gohart's vehicle and returned to the store with the receipts and empty bags. The bags were filled with the same items and one or two extra things. The shopper went through the

same checkout, reminded the checker s/he had just bought these groceries but had forgotten "these couple of things". The receipt would be shown and the checker or bagger invited to inspect the bags. The shopper paid for the extra selections and walked out of the store with a cartload of free groceries. More stories followed but these are a sample of those the manager described.

That store was a beautiful store -- well stocked, bright attractive displays, tables for shoppers to use for coffee or lunch breaks. Super markets operate on a 1% net profit. Pilferage of this kind makes it impossible for a store to be economically feasible.

Consider why supermarkets haven't stayed in the area and/or whether Tradition is willing to cover this kind of loss.

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