

How to create a ghetto

Safeway Stores' plans at Pioneer and 25th are unknown

When you circle the city block bounded by 25th and 26th Streets and Thomes and O'Neil Avenues, you have to wonder why all these apparently habitable houses are boarded up and why no one is responsible for snow removal from the sidewalks.

Further review showed that Safeway Stores 46 purchased the houses for the purpose of constructing a new downtown Safeway to replace the current one at Pioneer and 25th. But the acquisition of houses and filing of a plat for that new store took place as far back as 2002.

Rumors abound as to why no new store has been built there, but no one seems to have any answers.

Because the abandoned houses all around that square block (with the exception of houses facing O'Neil and one on 26th St. which is still occupied) can diminish property values for neighbors ... and because the accumulation of snow on sidewalks require pedestrians to dangerously walk in the street, it is a subject that requires attention.

The Cheyenne Herald contacted a Safeway official in Denver and he said he could not respond to media inquiries and would forward the questions to someone who could. No one called with those answers before the end of day on Friday, January 12, 2007. The person did say, for attribution, that he has hired someone

to clear the snow from the sidewalks. It is hard to imagine how such a large area (a city block) has been ignored when it is but three blocks from City Hall and the same from the new library location. But it has.



View from 26th & O'Neil (looking east). Snow by a Safeway house makes the sidewalk impassable



View from 25th & Thomes (looking west). Safeway boarded up houses, sidewalks uncleared

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