

# THE ROANOKE TIMES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

roanoke.com

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 75¢

## Property dispute stirs call for change

State lawmakers are considering an effort to make eminent domain laws more stringent through a constitutional amendment.

By Laurence Hammack  
and Mason Adams  
The Roanoke Times

The condemnation of property in Roanoke without a particular plan for its use has some legislators talking about changing Virginia's constitution.

"It points out the need that we

have more work to do," said Sen. Ken Cuccinelli, who was closely involved in tightening eminent domain laws two years ago to make it more difficult for governments to take land.

Cuccinelli, R-Fairfax County, said that when he takes over as attorney general next year, he will support a constitutional amendment to make the changes more lasting.

"This is the kind of thing that constitutions are supposed to protect us from," Cuccinelli said of the recent condemnation of land that sits in the shadow of Carilion Clinic's Riverside Center.

The controversial process took a new turn this week when officials at Carilion said they had no interest in



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Has worked  
to tighten  
eminent  
domain laws.

the property, which is currently the site of a flooring business on Reserve Avenue.

Although Carilion said it never included the 3-acre tract in its plans for an office complex and medical school, property owners Jay and Stephanie Burkholder dispute that.

The Burkholders contend that Carilion, which struck a deal with the city 10 years ago to redevelop the area, was the driving force behind

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- ① Medical school
- ② Riverside Center
- ③ Carilion Clinic
- ④ Parking garage
- ⑤ Cambria hotel site

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Sen. Ken Cuccinelli | attorney general-elect