

Published: Aug 05, 2007 09:22 AM
Modified: Aug 05, 2007 09:22 AM

Parking lot stalemate needs resolution

The bizarre standoff in the parking lot behind The Courtyard just keeps getting weirder.

The owner of most of the spaces in the lot, P.H. Craig, and the owner of The Courtyard, Spencer Young, have been locked in a dispute over a contract for those spaces -- for 18 months.

Last Sunday, a frustrated Craig barricaded his portion of the lot with an assortment of odds and ends: yellow caution tape, sawed-off utility poles, boulders and piles of gravel.

Tuesday night, a person or persons unknown apparently bulldozed a path through the barricade. How you sneak a bulldozer into a downtown parking lot is anybody's guess.

Craig filed a report with the police, and by Thursday the space was blocked off again -- this time with a Chevrolet Silverado, a Cadillac Fleetwood and a GMC High Sierra.

This appears to be a dispute between two private parties and would be nobody's business but theirs, except that it directly affects a lot of other people -- notably the tenants and customers of Courtyard shops and offices who just want to go about their business without all the drama. Can we suggest the Dispute Settlement Center?

If you have a comment on today's editorials, contact Dave Hart, associate editor, at 932-8744 or dhart@nando.com.

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