Key Excerpts to Highlight

THE HEART OF THE PROGRAM

- *The heart of the program is Defendants' plan that "a core basket of everyday groceries [will] be 30 percent cheaper at the five new municipal grocery stores." The Defendants hope to meet this 30% discount by offering free rent, exempting the property from taxes, and granting private operators taxpayer-funded "Affordability Payments."*

- *There is almost no modern example of a government entering the retail consumer-goods market, using its own properties to eliminate rent, immunizing itself from taxes, and using tax dollars to undercut competitors' prices.*

THE MONOPOLY END-STATE

- *A permanent, taxpayer-subsidized 30% discount measured against whatever private retailers charge is incompatible with [the Sherman Act's] principles.*

COST-SHIFTING, NOT COST-ELIMINATION

- *Those costs are not eliminated; they are transferred to taxpayers. The effective price to the consumer is achieved only by shifting real economic costs onto the tax base (such as rent, taxes, and operating deficits to maintain the 30% discount). Those costs remain economic costs even if the City elects not to book them against the store's own accounts.*