



Department of City Development

Housing Authority
Redevelopment Authority
City Plan Commission
Historic Preservation Commission
NIDC

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner

Martha L. Brown
Deputy Commissioner

November 21, 2005

The Honorable
Public Works Committee of the
Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall Room 205

Subject: File No. 050527 being a substitute resolution amending a special privilege to Plant Two Corporation in the vicinity of 338-48 South Water Street to renew permission to park boats and boat trailers on an unnamed street, in the 12th Aldermanic District in the City of Milwaukee

Dear Committee Members:

File No. 050527 is a resolution extending a special privilege granting permission to a company which is owned by one or more of the Kurth family members to store boats and boat trailers on an unnamed street lying between South Water Street and the Milwaukee River in the 300 block. The Kurth family owns land on both sides of the unnamed street. The property, in a strategic location on the Milwaukee River adjacent to the Chicago & Northwestern railroad swing bridge, is dilapidated, unimproved, a home for vagrants and target of vandalism. Its dockwall is deteriorating. In fact, just prior to this initial approval, a portion of the property burned several times and was ultimately demolished under an agreement negotiated by the City Attorney.

When this proposal to use the street for boat and trailer storage was first considered in 2003, we negotiated an agreement with the representative of the family, Mr. John Hein, to allow the use of the unnamed street for a three season period (2003, 2004, 2005) under the condition that during that time the Kurth family would prepare and present a plan for the development of the property. In a spirit of cooperation we felt that this would motivate the family to redevelop the property and that the storage would allow them to generate enough revenue to offset some, if not all, of the real estate taxes and, thus, minimize the financial burden during the planning phase. However, the plan has not materialized. In fact, neither the family nor its representative has met with us during this three-season period to discuss development plans for the property.

Although the City has acted in good faith, the family has not reciprocated. As a result, we object to any further extension of the special privilege to the family and respectfully recommend that you disapprove this special privilege application.

Sincerely,

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner

cc: Mr. Jeffrey S. Polenske
Mr. Thomas Miller