

July 14, 2003

To the Public Improvements Committee

Subject: Common Council Resolution File Number 030230

Dear Honorable Members:

Returned herewith is Common Council Resolution File Number 030230, being a request by Water Street Investment LLC for an amendment to a special privilege to place and maintain 6 ornamental/movable planters for flowers on the sidewalks of North Water Street and East Wells Street adjacent to the property at 789 North Water Street.

A special privilege was previously granted, under C.C. 990879, for permission to install tree grates and also uprights attached to City light poles to lightwash the building. Conduits for power were also included. The present proposal was made by Heartland Advisors, one of the tenants of the building through the owner. After an on-sight walk-through with both parties and subsequent thoughts exchanged, they requested that two 48 inch diameter planters be placed along the curb of East Wells Street, three 48-inch diameter planters be placed along the curb of North Water Street and two 3-foot wide, 1.5-foot deep planters be placed along the building flanking the building pedestrian entrance on North Water Street. The planters for the present proposal, according to their submittal, would be similar to those owned by the City. The planters along the curb would be approximately 1.5 feet from the curblines. They measure 1.6 and 1.7 feet.

At the time of a subsequent field investigation, all of the above locations had been "chalked" on the sidewalk so that we could see as well as measure the locations. The planters are not similar to those owned by the City. A successive observation revealed that the planters were in the process of being filled with a growing medium (topsoil, etc.) and plant material. A closer look disclosed trees (either deciduous or coniferous) as well as flowers in each planter. In addition, there was one additional round planter on East Wells Street. A follow-up visit tied down the exact location of all planters. The most northern planter on North Water Street provides approximately 5.5 feet for pedestrian movements. This is slightly below the minimum of 6 feet for good pedestrian movement.

It is, however, worthwhile to see if this causes a problem. If it does so in the future, they will either have to relocate it or remove it.

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We are not aware that the existing tree grates or uprights has had an adverse effect upon pedestrian usage of the public rights-of-way in this area and we do not contemplate that the proposed movable planters will have an adverse effect upon the pedestrian usage of the public rights-of-way in this area. We have, therefore, prepared the attached resolution which, if adopted, would allow all of these items to occupy the public rights-of-way.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
City Engineer

Mariano A. Schifalacqua
Commissioner of Public Works

Martin G. Collins
Commissioner
Department of Neighborhood Services

JJM:cjt
Attachment