

June 13, 2005

To the Public Improvements Committee

Subject: Common Council Resolution File Number 050058

Dear Honorable Members:

Returned herewith is Common Council Resolution File Number 050058, being a petition for a special privilege to permit the placement of some street furniture on the north sidewalk of West Hopkins Street abutting 1658 West Hopkins Street.

The furniture would consist of two blocks of stone, a trash can and a movable planter for a small tree. The blocks of stone which would function as benches ("sitting stones") are to be 4-foot long, 12 inches deep and 18 inches high. All of these items would abut the building in front of Mr. Alex White's barber shop (the property owner). The sidewalk area is 8 feet wide and the building is set back approximately 6 additional inches. There are two businesses between the barber shop and West Chambers Street and the property to the north is Union Cemetery. Parking is allowed along the curb.

With someone sitting on the stones, the combination of stones, legs and feet would reasonably use at least 3 feet. This would leave 5.5 feet for through pedestrians and access to the parked vehicles, which is a similar amount that we would desire if the items requested were tables and chairs for a sidewalk area dining facility. The stones would probably remain during the winter, when snow storage may further constrict through pedestrians.

While we are concerned that the placement of this street furniture may constrict pedestrian movement, especially if several people are congregating in front of the barber shop, we appreciate the petitioner's interest in providing improvements into the right-of-way. We have, therefore, prepared the attached resolution for the Committee's deliberation. If the resolution is adopted and a problem develops, the permission can be revoked by rescinding the resolution.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
City Engineer

Jeffrey J. Mantes
Commissioner of Public Works

Martin G. Collins
Commissioner
Department of Neighborhood Services

MDL:cjt
Attachment