

June 26, 2003

To the Public Improvements Committee

Subject: Common Council Resolution File Number 001099

Dear Honorable Members:

Returned herewith is Common Council Resolution File Number 001099, being a petition for a special privilege submitted for permission to construct and maintain a ramped entrance for barrier-free access within the public right-of-way adjacent to the property at 1850-60 North Water Street. Up until about a year and a half ago, this building was the site of a business called the Five and Ten Tap. That business is gone but the present property owner is looking for a similar type of business to occupy his building.

Our field review of the site showed that two sets of steps adjacent to the property encroach into the public right-of-way. Also, both northerly and southerly of the building there are some retaining walls, both wood and concrete. Additionally, between the steps and along the sidewalk there is a narrow wood edging that functions as retainment for raised planting areas. They are intending to keep all of these items and therefore, formal permission will be required. There are five 3-foot wide doors that swing out into the right-of-way either over the existing steps or the proposed platforms. Also, in the vicinity of the new platforms and ramp the narrow wood edging exists. It is to be removed, in that area only, in order to construct the platform and ramps. It is not to be reinstalled. The existing concrete retaining wall southerly of the building is to be removed and replaced as a concrete block wall slightly further southerly to accommodate the elevational change of the ramps.

The proposed barrier-free concrete platforms and ramp are to be located on the southeasterly side of North Water Street beginning approximately 330 feet north of the northline of East Hamilton Street. The platform will be approximately 26.5 feet long with the top ramp being 5 feet wide, with approximately the entire width of the structure extending into the 15-foot wide public sidewalk area. Approximately 6 feet of existing concrete paved sidewalk will be available for through pedestrians with the remainder being a grass tree border. The steps are located approximately 382 and 418 feet north of the northline of East Hamilton Street. Their encroachments are approximately 5.0 feet and 4.5 feet, respectively.

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We are not aware of any problems with the existing steps, retaining walls or the planter edging. It does not appear that the construction, usage and maintenance of the platforms with ramps or other items will have an adverse effect upon the pedestrian usage of the public right-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 right-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