

May 12, 2006

To the Public Works Committee

Subject: Common Council Resolution File Number 981596

Dear Honorable Members:

Returned herewith is Common Council Resolution File 981596, being a petition from Wisconsin Center District to amend a special privilege for additional raised planters; a sculpture; special concrete sidewalk scoring patterns and colored concrete; tree grates with guards; trash receptacles; and protective railings in the public right-of-way adjacent to the building located at 400 West Wisconsin Avenue, known as the Midwest Express Center.

The City of Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Center District entered into a "Public Amenities, Easement, and Right-of-Way Agreement" authorized under Common Council Resolution File Number 970477. Included as "Exhibit A" to that agreement was a Special Privilege granting permission to the Wisconsin Center District to have raised planters within the public rights-of-way of North 4th Street, West Wisconsin Avenue, and North 6th Street and a sculpture in West Wisconsin Avenue.

Site visits to the Midwest Express Center confirmed the locations of planters in the public rights-of-way of North 4th Street, West Wisconsin Avenue, North 6th Street and West Kilbourn Avenue. Additionally, the Wisconsin Center District constructed concrete sidewalk with special scoring patterns and with colored concrete within the sidewalk areas of North 4th Street and West Wisconsin Avenue. Site visits also revealed the presence of tree grates with guards and trash receptacles in the south sidewalk area of West Kilbourn Avenue and the west sidewalk area of North 4th Street, as well as protective railings in the north and south sidewalk areas of West Wells Street. Said railings prevent pedestrians from using a mid-block crossing of West Wells Street which is located between curb push-outs on the north and south sides of that street.

The City will be replacing the current raised planters along West Wisconsin Avenue as part of the streetscaping project scheduled for the summer of 2006. For this reason, these planters have not been included in the attached special privilege resolution. The sculpture located in the north sidewalk area of West Wisconsin Avenue is to remain in place during and after the streetscaping of West Wisconsin Avenue and is included in the attached special privilege resolution. It should also be noted that the streetscaping project

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will replace the concrete sidewalk adjacent to the Midwest Express Center to match the existing sidewalk patterns and color as much as possible.

We are not aware that the presence of said items has had an adverse effect on the general use of the public rights-of-way. We have, therefore, prepared the attached special privilege resolution, which, if adopted, will allow said items to continue to occupy the public right-of-way and will eliminate the raised planters on Wisconsin Avenue from the special privilege.

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:lja
Attachment.

c. Alderman Robert Bauman