

June 15, 2005

To the Public Improvements Committee

Subject: Common Council Resolution File Number 050117

Dear Honorable Members:

Returned herewith is Common Council Resolution File Number 050117, being a petition for a special privilege for Rodimiro Perez and Maria Perez to grant permission for a platform with ramp to be located in public right-of-way of West Becher Street abutting 2079 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

The proposal is to convert this former fish market into a restaurant. It involves providing barrier-free access with a platform and ramp that is to be located in the public right-of-way instead of using the existing two steps along the West Becher Street side of the building. It appears that the 8.5-foot long platform and 14.0-foot long ramp is to encroach approximately 4 feet into the established 14-foot wide north sidewalk area of West Becher Street. The existing steps on the South 15<sup>th</sup> Street side are to be rebuilt in place. It appears that they are presently in but will be just out of the 13-foot wide west sidewalk area of South 15<sup>th</sup> Street..

For the length of the building, there is a concrete pavement between the building and main walk. This is where the platform and ramp are to be located. From the rear of the building to the parking area near the rear of the property, there is a chain link fence along the property line, and between the fence and sidewalk, there are very tall bushes. These bushes are crowding the sidewalk. From a safety and security viewpoint as it relates to access to the ramp as well as two-way pedestrian passage on the sidewalk, it is imperative that these bushes be kept trimmed so that they always stay at least 1.5 feet from the sidewalk. This will help keep the area of the ramp visible at all times. This has been mentioned to the ownership through the project architect and we have been assured that they will try to comply. Constant City staff monitoring will not be possible; however, upon continual complaint we will have no choice but to order the bushes completely removed from the public right-of-way.

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There is a 2.8-foot wide door, located near the rear of the building along West Becher Street that swings out into the public right-of-way. Its total encroachment is approximately 2.7 feet, which is in excess of the 12 inches allowable by Section 245-4-8 of the City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinances. It is to remain and will be included in the special privilege.

We do not believe that the presence of the platform and ramp in the right-of-way will have an adverse effect upon the pedestrian use of the right-of-way. We have, therefore, prepared the attached resolution, which, if adopted, will allow all of these items to be constructed, used and maintained in the north sidewalk area of West Becher Street adjacent to 2079 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

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