

August 20, 2004

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Subject: Resolution to close median opening on
West Lapham Boulevard at South 13th Street

Dear Council Members:

This is in response to a request to install a traffic control device to improve safety at the intersection of West Lapham Boulevard and South 13th Street as a result of an increase in vehicular crashes.

Review of the crash data at this intersection revealed that both northbound and southbound motorists on South 13th Street were initially stopping at the Stop sign at West Lapham Boulevard for cross street traffic. However, they neglected to yield the right-of-way to traffic as they proceeded across the roadway and pass the median opening, thus right angle crashes occurred. Field observations revealed that there are not obstructions on the medians that could cause a visibility problem. We recommend that this closure be implemented on a trial basis to fully evaluate the impacts of the closure on vehicular traffic conflicts prior to the design and construction of a permanent closure. The trial closure would be implemented by means of movable barriers installed at the median opening on West Lapham Boulevard and South 13th Street.

We have prepared and recommend adoption of the attached resolution, which authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Public Works to implement the proposed street closure at the median opening on West Lapham Boulevard at South 13th Street on a trial basis.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
City Engineer

Jeffrey J. Mantes
Commissioner of Public Works

RWB:dle
Attachments

c: Alderman Witkowiak,

12th Aldermanic District

(TRAFFIC/MED OPENING 13 AND LAPHAM RES-RWB)