

TO: City Plan - Attn: Vanessa Koster; Kristin Connelly, Ed Richardson
Copy to: Alderman Jose Perez
FM: BID #4 - Mitchell Street
RE: Mitchell Street Overlay Plan

Regarding Employment Agencies (temporary staffing agencies), following are additional specific instances and problems caused by those waiting to be dispatched to jobs and observed by two of our BID #4 Board members who live and/or own commercial properties and a business on Historic Mitchell Street:

1. This past summer, several "temporary workers" were observed panhandling for both money and cigarettes in front of 806-808 W. Historic Mitchell Street, while waiting to be dispatched for jobs, or waiting for the staffing agency bus to pick them up.
2. As workers were waiting (either for the agency to open or for the bus), they blocked the sidewalk making it difficult for pedestrians to get around them. In several instances, my Board member crossed the street rather than try to walk around them.
3. The staffing agency bus was observed, this past summer, picking up the workers in front of the agency rather than in the parking area behind the building. This caused a traffic tie-up on busy Historic Mitchell Street.
4. In several instances, the workers would loiter earlier in the day while waiting for the agency to open. We have seen small stools or buckets, placed outside of the agency for the workers to sit on, rather than have them wait inside of the agency. This was due to the small size of the agency's office and insufficient seating for the workers.
5. The general nuisance behavior by those loitering outside of the agency, from early morning until the last dispatch of the day, created an unprofessional or undesirable business look to the commercial corridor.
6. There was a report of public urination by workers, but could not be substantiated.

Lastly, there was a shooting this past summer on the south side of the 800 block of W. Historic Mitchell Street, during daytime hours, and across the street from the staffing agency. The report was that one of the workers went into the check cashing store across the street, and was shot by a known drive-by shooter.

1/7/2015