

March 12, 2003

To the Public Improvements Committee

Subject: Common Council Resolution File Number 010821

Dear Honorable Members:

Returned herewith is Common Council Resolution File Number 010821, being a petition for a special privilege submitted by The Newark Group, Inc., d/b/a Wisconsin Paperboard Co., to have two brick-faced columns with a light pole atop each to be located within the public right-of-way on the west side of North Newhall Street, near 1514 East Thomas Avenue. The block of East Thomas Avenue from North Newhall Street to North Cambridge Avenue was vacated in 2001 in order to create a better facility for Wisconsin Paperboard Company truck access as well as to unify the security for their parking facilities. The entrance columns with light pole are apparently a way to announce who and where they are.

The project had, to our knowledge, been put "on hold" over a year ago. There were two other actions broached that could have been taken so that there would have been columns in that vicinity. If either was pursued to completion, the special privilege would not have been needed. One was for the column locations to be slightly further west so that they would have been on private property within the vacated East Thomas Avenue. The other way was for additional right-of-way (a piece of the west side of North Newhall Street abutting the vacated East Thomas Avenue) to be vacated. These were mentioned to the Contractor when a permit was applied for, who, as far as we knew at the time, was going to bring it to the attention of Wisconsin Paperboard Company. Moving the location west might have compromised maneuvering space for the trucks and a vacation process would have been time consuming. We thought that it was still on hold but it appears that a decision must have been reached to do it as originally proposed.

A recent field viewing indicated that the columns and lights are "in place." We observed two six foot high columns with six foot high lampposts mounted on top of each. The four foot by four foot columns appear to be faced with brick and are centered approximately 1 foot east of the westline of North Newhall Street, on either side of the

To the Public Improvements Committee  
March 12, 2003  
Page 2

entrance to vacated East Thomas Avenue. We are considering that the columns are tall bases for the lights. We have subsequently learned that the columns are poured concrete with a brick surface pattern emprinted by formwork. We also observed that there is a chain link fence that extends from the south column on private property to a formerly existing chain link fence, that is adjacent to a parking area and is located along the public sidewalk. This section of fence, approximately 180 feet in length, is located in the public right-of-way and encroaches approximately 3 feet. It apparently has been in place since 1998. This fence will be included in the special privilege.

It does not appear that the encroachment of the lights with tall bases or fence into the public right-of-way of North Newhall Street has had or will have an adverse effect on the general use of the public right-of-way at this location. We have, therefore, prepared the attached special privilege resolution, which, if adopted, will allow these items to continue to encroach into 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