

105-55.5.4(d) Appeal of Permit Denials. *The commissioner of public works shall grant or deny the application for a special event permit and notify the applicant of a denial within 3 working days after the filing of an application for a Class D event, except as soon as possible but not more than one working day for demonstrations as specified in sub. 1-d3; within 10 working days after the filing of an application for a Class A, B or C event; and within 10 working days after the filing of an application for a Class A, B or C downtown event. Any applicant who has been denied a special event may upon written request to the city clerk, have the denial reviewed by the common council licensing committee which shall either affirm or reverse the initial action on the application. Such determination by the committee shall constitute final action. If the committee is unable to convene prior to the proposed date, of the special event, the applicant may seek judicial review of the denial.*

Dear Mr. Owczarski:

The Hunger Task Force appeals the decision of Mr. James Washington, P. E., Public Works Coordination Manager's denial of their Special Event Permit requested October 28th, 2022. The Hunger Task Force requests this permit to place a service vehicle and portable restroom facility ("Port-o-Potty") at MacArthur Square Park at 841 N. Lovell St., Milwaukee, WI 53233. A toilet promotes public health. Without a toilet, unhoused people tent camping in the park have been forced to relieve themselves within the parking structure causing a public health hazard.

Our appeal of this decision is first based in compassion, dignity, and equity, which are core values of the Hunger Task Force. We believe that the permit should be allowed because the City of Milwaukee has permitted the use of "Port-o-Potties" in the past for various downtown street events including but not limited to Jazz in the Park, Bastille Days the Bucks Championship Parade and the Night Market.

Conversely, denying the permit would be an affront to the humanity of the unhoused and discrimination based on status. The unhoused have as much right to use public land as any parade attendee or festival goer.

We will not cure homelessness by avoiding it, no more than we will stop the unhoused from using the bathroom by not giving them one. A better approach is to address the issue with humanity and dignity for all in our focus.

We humbly ask that your office take a wholistic view of the purpose and effect of the permit and grant our request. This permit will, at no cost to the city, offer a safer and healthier space for Milwaukee's neediest citizens. Approval of the permit will help keep the park safer and cleaner for future use. It will also demonstrate that the city is open to protecting the rights and needs of all its citizens, regardless of class or circumstance.

Thank you,

TR Edwards, Esq.
Director of Advocacy
Hunger Task Force of WI