

City of Detroit

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January 19, 2006

Ms. Cathy Square, Director
Department of Public Works

RE: Petition of Seward Street Block Club, (#3919), request to reopen Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue to through vehicular traffic

Dear Ms. Square:

During the Neighborhood & Community Services Standing Committee held January 10, 2006, discussion was held relative to the above captioned petition. As a result, Council requested that the Public Works Department submit an outline of the requirements for re-opening Seward at Woodward to vehicular traffic, as indicated in the attached Clerk's notes.

Kindly submit a report to the City Clerk's Office by *Friday, January 20, 2006*, as this matter will be a line item on Council's calendar on that date.

Very truly yours,



Janice M. Winfrey
Detroit City Clerk

/blw

cc: Mr. Kandia Milton, Mayor's Office

RECEIVED
CITY ENGINEERING DIV-DPW

JAN 23 2006

By _____

Janice M. Winfrey, City Clerk
200 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center • Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 224-3266

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CED
1-20-06

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2006

A. **10:00 A.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - RE:** Petition of Seward Street Block Club, (#3919), request to reopen Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue to through vehicular traffic

PRESENT: Jim Knoll, Department of Public Works; Lu San Pedro, Planning & Development Department; and James Ribbron, City Planning Commission

PEDRO: This petition was submitted about five months ago and our department has responded that it's under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division.

KNOLL: The Department of Public Works has no objection to the reopening of the street provided the petitioner would bear the cost of restoring the street according to city specifications.

WATSON: Do you have an outline of what the proposed costs might be so that we can present it to the block club?

KNOLL: We haven't done that. That's something I can follow up on.

RIBBRON: Our office did speak with the Grandmont Association and the Seward Block Club and they indicated they did not have any financial resources but we also suggested that they work with New Center Commons and maybe Crosswinds and some of the other developers in the area that could possibly assist with that. And we also indicated that we spoke with the Department of Public Works and they are aware of what Public Works mentioned.

WATSON: It would also help for them to know how much would be needed. Can you give me a ballpark figure?

KNOLL: No, I can't right now.

WATSON: Why don't we ask that this **COME BACK IN ONE MONTH AND DURING THE INTERIM YOU PUT TOGETHER AN OUTLINE OF THE COSTS THAT ARE PROJECT FOR SAID RE-OPENING, AN OUTLINE OF WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO MEET CITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR RE-OPENING SEWARD AT WOODWARD TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND ANY OTHER SPECIAL PIECES THAT OUGHT TO BE IN PLACE TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT. IF YOU CAN SEND A COPY OF THAT TO THE PETITIONER AND TO THE DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED, THAT WOULD HELP US IN OUR RESPONSE. BRING THIS BACK IN ONE MONTH.**

LATER IN THE MEETING

COLLINS: This was my issue to reopen Seward Street because it's a safety issue. The fire

trucks have to back out of that street, **SO I'M GOING TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY TO RE-OPEN THAT STREET AT COST TO THE CITY.** The Block Club should not have to pay to open a cul-de-sac that is a safety hazard.

WATSON: I remember when that cul-de-sac was created. It was created at the behest of the developers for that expensive housing around there.

COLLINS: It was the Burger King and GM. GM purchased a lot of that property and they didn't want the traffic coming through from the Burger King. But GM is not there anymore.

WATSON: I think the resolution will be a wonderful way of keeping it clear about who's responsibility it is. **WE ASK THE CLERK TO BE SO ADVISED AND WE ASK THAT THE RESEARCH & ANALYSIS DIVISION ASSIST IN THE DRAFTING OF THAT RESOLUTION.**

B. Westbrook

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Resolution to Re-Open Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue

By Council Member Barbara-Rose Collins

WHEREAS: The General Motors Corporation petitioned the Detroit City Council for the closure of Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS: After many years of closure, residents and businesses have been burdened by many impediments caused by the closure of Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue; and

WHEREAS: One major impediment involves the Detroit Fire Department's inability to adequately reach dwellings in a timely manner, primarily due to the fact that their only means of gaining access to Seward Avenue is to back in by way of 2nd Street; and

WHEREAS: Such an impediment of the Detroit Fire Department could result in serious injury to persons up to and including death; and

WHEREAS: The General Motors Corporation has since from that time vacated its Headquarters on W. Grand Blvd. and moved to a downtown location, the Renaissance Center; and

WHEREAS: The residents of the Seward Avenue Block Club have requested the re-opening of Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue without objection from interested parties; and

WHEREAS: The City of Detroit Planning and Development Department has indicated no objection other than the cost involved for re-opening Seward Avenue to vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS: The residents of Seward Avenue never requested the closing of Seward Avenue to vehicular traffic and were affected negatively as a result of the closing, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: The Detroit City Council approves the re-opening of Seward Avenue at Woodward Avenue to vehicular traffic. **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: The Detroit City Council hereby directs the Administration, Finance Department and Planning and Development Department to propose the financial plan the City of Detroit must undertake to absorb the cost for this project.

THURSDAY APR 19 2006

BB Tomonow
X-18-06 Received At Table