

January 27, 2016

Honorable City Council:

RE: Petition No. 761, Joni Mortier, request a permanent street closure on Berg Road between Grand River and West Seven Mile.

Petition No. 761 of Joni Mortier, et al, request to vacate and convert to easement a part of Berg Road, 66 feet wide, lying north of Grand River Avenue, 120 feet wide and south of West Seven Mile Road, 120 feet wide.

The petition was referred to the City Engineering Division – DPW for investigation (utility review) and report. This is our report.

DPW - City Engineering Division made a determination to process this petition as a temporary closure since the petitioners do not own the property adjoining the portion of Berg Road that is being requested to be closed. A temporary closure could be re-opened by action of your Honorable Body; however a permanent closure would require a rededication of the land by the property owner.

This request is being made by the petitioner primarily for perceived safety concerns. The petitioner states that the volume and speed of traffic on Berg effects a potential danger to pedestrian traffic. Additionally, the petitioner states other issues caused by the isolation of the area, because Berg Road is passing through the Rogell Golf course. The other issues include the danger to women and children pedestrians by predatory male drivers and illegal dumping.

While the Department of Public Works is fully supportive of enforcement activities that will curtail the concerns raised by the petitioner, we do not feel that they provide adequate cause to close a major road that would adversely affect vehicular traffic that routinely uses that stretch of Berg Road to access facilities, including schools, that are located north or south of the referenced segment.

Therefore, the Department of Public Works recommends **DENIAL** of this petition request.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Brundidge, Director
Department of Public Works

CC: Aliyah Sabree, Mayor's Office
Richard Doherty, DPW City Engineering Division