

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Office of the City Clerk

Coleman A Young Municipal Center
Two Woodward Avenue, Suite 200
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Telephone: (313) 224-2070 Fax: (313) 224-2075

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

No. of Pages 2

FROM: *Mr. Andre Gilbert II, Junior Assistant City Council Committee Clerk*

SUBJECT: *Petition #761, Joni Mortier, request for permanent street closure on Berg Rd. between Grand River and West Seven Mile.*

FAX TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT(S):

--- Mr. Ron Brundidge, Director	DPW/Traffic Engineering	(313) 224-1464
--- Mr. Ronald Freeland, Director	Transportation Department	(313) 833-5523

Attachment

City of Detroit
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Janice M. Winfrey
City Clerk

Vivian A. Hudson
Deputy City Clerk

DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE COMMUNICATION

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

To: The Department or Commission Listed Below

From: Janice M. Winfrey, Detroit City Clerk

The following petition is herewith referred to you for report and recommendation to the City Council.

In accordance with that body's directive, kindly return the same with your report in duplicate within four (4) weeks.

DPW/TRAFFIC ENGINEERING TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

761 *Joni Mortier, request for permanent street closure on Berg Rd. between Grand River and West Seven Mile.*

#761

The Honorable City Council
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

July 4, 2015

Re: Petition for Permanent Closure of Berg Road

Dear City Council Members:

CITY CLERK 7 JUL 2015 PM 1:12

I am a lifelong resident of the City of Detroit who has lived on Berg Road for my almost 62 years. I am also a member of the Greater Sandhill Community Association which includes residents of our portion of Berg. After considerable thought and discussion with neighbors, other community members, Mayor Duggan, the Department of Neighborhoods staff for District 1, and various City departments, I am coming to you to petition for permanent closure of a particular portion of Berg Road.

In District 1, Berg Road runs between Grand River and 8 Mile. Our specific area of focus begins at Grand River. Heading north on Berg from Grand River, there are a total of nineteen homes on your right, comprising two city blocks. On your left is the former Rogell Golf Course which is now unused. After passing the nineteenth home, the road curves to the right and goes downhill into what I will refer to as "the gully." That area is wooded and isolated. The road then goes back uphill and continues past the clubhouse of the former golf course and straight to 7 Mile.

We are petitioning the City to put one set of permanent barriers at the beginning of the gully, and a second set at the end of the gully. This would allow residents and their guests south of the barrier to use Berg Road for ingress and egress, and would also allow a new owner of the golf course property to use that entire area near the clubhouse for their own purposes. The barriers would stop vehicle traffic from complete access between Grand River and 7 Mile but would allow pedestrian and bicycle traffic access in both directions.

Berg Road has long been used as an alternate route for non-residents wishing to avoid Lahser and/or Telegraph between Grand River and 7 Mile. The amount of traffic this creates, particularly during rush hours, has long been a bane to us who live on Berg. It has become particularly problematic over the last decade as more and more people disobey the stop sign at Curtis and disobey speed limits. There are times during the day when it is difficult to even get out of our driveways. I want to stress that Berg is a residential street. There are main roads one-half mile to the

east (Lahser) and one-half mile to the west (Telegraph) that can be used by drivers to reach their destination.

The primary reason we are petitioning for closure is for safety reasons. We have children who use Berg Road to walk to the schools north of 7 Mile. We have children, adults, and families who like to bicycle, walk their dogs, and jog down the street because of the rural feel of our area. With speeding traffic coming from both north and south, this makes for a dangerous situation. Also, because the gully is very isolated, we have neighborhood women who have stopped walking or jogging in the area because of incidents involving men in vehicles whose behavior has made these women feel unsafe going into that isolated area. I have personally seen suspicious vehicles following female pedestrians and have done whatever I could to help keep those women safe.

There have been injury accidents on Berg Road and incidences of cars losing control and ending up in people's front yards. The latest incident was November of 2014. Two homes were damaged, not to mention the crushed landscaping. The teenagers who lost control of their car did not sustain any serious injuries in that accident, but during my lifetime there have been serious injuries and even fatalities as drivers fail to safely navigate the road due to high speed.

In addition, there are times after heavy rains that the gully area floods, making it impassable for vehicles. During the last period of flooding, two cars had to be towed out of the flooded area and one person had to be rescued from their stranded car by the fire department. Also, an EMS truck racing north on Berg with siren on and lights flashing had to suddenly stop due to the flooding, turn around, and race back to Grand River to use an alternate route. I don't know if this negatively affected the outcome of the emergency situation they were called to. If Berg was permanently closed to through traffic, then EMS, DPD, and DFD would know not to use this street and would never be surprised to find it flooded and impassable.

We also have a problem with illegal dumping in the gully area. Again, because it is isolated, we often find landscaping, construction and assorted other debris dumped at the bottom of the gully. General littering in that area and along our entire stretch of Berg is also a problem.

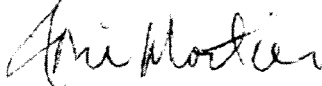
Secondary to safety issues, we feel that closure of Berg Road would enhance our entire community and increase the market value of our homes. With permanent closure to through traffic, Berg would be a safe place for pedestrians and bicyclists to exercise and generally enjoy the outdoors. There is no other road like Berg within the city limits. If it becomes safe to use for recreational purposes, it will be an attractive feature for potential homeowners looking to move into our area.

I am including with this petition a sheet containing seventeen signatures of Berg Road residents who want the road closed, and a signed letter from an out-of-state

owner who was unable to personally sign the sheet. The nineteenth homeowner, who did not wish to sign, has stated they do not want to block closure and will sign in support if it becomes necessary for approval. I am also including a letter from our neighborhood association in support of closure.

Please thoughtfully consider this petition for permanent closure. We ask that you not prioritize the convenience of non-residents, who simply use the road, over the safety and comfort of residents who actually live here.

Respectfully submitted,



Joni Mortier
18250 Berg Road
Detroit, MI 48219
313-531-7771
313-319-4350

cc: Ron Bundridge, Director, DPW
Stephanie Young, Dept. of Neighborhoods, District 1 Manager

We, the undersigned residents of Berg Road between Grand River and West 7 Mile, are in support of having our road closed to vehicular traffic between the northmost house (18420 Berg) and the former golf course clubhouse for reasons of safety for ourselves and for the significant amount of pedestrian traffic, including children who use our road to get to and from school.

17802 Ernest G. Jackson Ernest G. Jackson

17826 Brian Minor

17836 Mary Margaret Pice Michael R. Pice

17848 William J. Bell

17858 Camille Anne Arin

17868 John Johnson

17878

17888 Mahone Moore

17898 Darrel Edwards

17910 Ralph J. Johnston Theresa Johnston

18214 ~~Sandra Gille~~

18224 Sandra Gille Clara MacMillan

18244 Sandra Gille

18250 JEFF + JONI MORTIER

18266 Everal SHAuntee ESHA

18280 Mary Madonis

18298

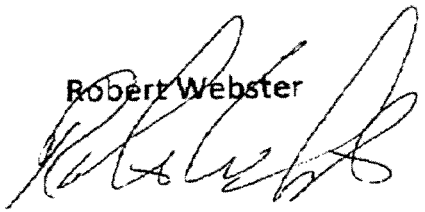
18318 Margaret Gaster

~~18340~~

18420

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Robert Webster I own the property at 18298 Berg Rd I would like to add my name to the list of other residents on berg Rd in closing down the end of the block for oncoming traffic.

Robert Webster


07/01/2015



Post Office Box 19063
Detroit, MI 48219
July 2, 2015

Old Redford Citizens Radio Patrol
Ms. Joni Mortier, Secretary

Dear Ms. Mortier:

Over the past few years neighbors have become increasingly concerned about the speed and amount of traffic along Berg Road. The most alarming aspect of the situation however is the fact that children walking to or from the three schools on Berg north of Seven Mile are forced to travel along a narrow, curved, hilly and wooded Berg road with no curb or sidewalk. This traffic pattern presents a clear and present danger to anyone walking on Berg north of the sidewalk and south of Seven Mile Road.

We brought this issue up for discussion at the membership meeting of the Greater Sandhill Neighborhood Organization held on June 24th, 2015. At that time we took a vote and **found that a generous plurality of those present were in favor of the closure of Berg Road** south of the former Rogell clubhouse and north of nearby homes.

We applaud the continued efforts to make this road closure a reality and are convinced it will add to the quality of life in this community.

Please let us know how we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mary Price'.

Mary Price, Member
Greater Sandhill Steering Committee

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7/6/15

FROM: Joni Mortier
313.319.4350

TO: Ms. Edwina King, Office of Councilman James Tate

FAX #: 313.224.0372

NO. OF PAGES: 7 (including cover sheet)

RE: Petition for Permanent Closure of Berg Road

Ms. King,

I could not get my scanner to work properly so I'm faxing over the petition and attendant paperwork. I'll call and leave a phone message for you, too. I will also fax the same paperwork to Ron Bundridge, as you suggested, and will email the petition to Stephanie Young from the Dept of Neighborhoods because we have been working with her on this topic.

The actual petition letter is 3 pages, plus the resident signature sheet, a letter from a non-resident homeowner, and a letter from our community association.

Thank you again for your time. I understand you will forward this to the City Clerk so it can go before City Council.

Joni Mortier
18250 Berg
313.319.4350

cc: Ron Bundridge, Director, Department of Public Works (Fax # 224.1464)
Stephanie Young, Dept of Neighborhoods (Petition only via email at youngst@detroitmi.gov)

CITY CLERK 7 JUL 2015 PM 1:12