

**City of Detroit**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

Janice M. Winfrey  
City Clerk

Vivian A. Hudson  
Deputy City Clerk

**DEPARTMENTAL REFERENCE COMMUNICATION**

*Monday, September 11, 2017*

*To: The Department or Commission Listed Below*

*From: Janice M. Winfrey, Detroit City Clerk*

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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.

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DPW - CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION    PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**1773**    *City of Detroit- Department of Public Works- City Engineering Division, requests the temporary closure of Woodward Avenue from Jefferson to Larned Street for a period of five years.*



CITY OF DETROIT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER  
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DETROIT, MI 48226  
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September 7, 2017

The Honorable City Council  
Attn: Office of City Clerk  
2 Woodward Avenue  
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Suite 200,  
Detroit, MI 48226

Honorable City Council

The Department of Public Works – City Engineering Division submits this petition to request the temporary closure of Woodward Avenue, from Jefferson Avenue to Larned Street for a period of five years.

The new “Spirit of Detroit Plaza,” is a vibrant new public space located in front of the Spirit of Detroit statue. The 20,000 square-foot civic square on Woodward, between Larned and Jefferson, exists to celebrate Detroit’s diversity and complement recent enhancements to Woodward Avenue, such as the new esplanade between Larned and Campus Martius.

During the initial trial period, the civic space, as well as adjacent streets in the immediate area, have been closely monitored to evaluate the overall impact. Similar public spaces have been created in many cities around the world to improve walkability, increase access to public space, and create new business development without negatively impacting area traffic flow.

The project improves both safety and mobility for all users, creating a more direct pedestrian link between Downtown and the Detroit Riverfront, while reducing delay times for motorists travelling on Jefferson Ave, one of the cities’ busiest thoroughfares. The project also marks the latest step towards the City’s goal of establishing smarter, safer mobility for all and improving the city’s economy by reimagining Detroit’s streets to serve everyone.

This petition is being requested so that “Spirit of Detroit Plaza” may continue as a public space on Woodward Avenue between Jefferson Avenue and Larned Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Doherty, P. E., City Engineer  
City Engineering Division – DPW

2017-08-11

**1773**

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Department of Public Works- City  
Engineering Division, requests the  
temporary closure of Woodward  
Avenue from Jefferson to Larned  
Street for a period of five years.*

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**REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT(S)**

**DPW - CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**