



CITY OF DETROIT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
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April 13, 2023

Honorable City Council:

RE: Petition Number x2023-119 – Catholic Archdiocese, Request for the Temporary closure of Cambridge Avenue, between Ohio and Cherrylawn, for a period of five (5) years.

The above referenced petition has been investigated by the DPW- City Engineering Division. This is our report.

The purpose of this request is to improve traffic management related to the U of D Jesuit High School at 8400 South Cambridge Avenue. The proposal to close Cambridge Avenue was first considered under petition x540 in 2015. The original petition requested the vacation of Cambridge Avenue but was changed to a temporary closure during the utility review. Petition x540 was approved by Your Honorable Body on June 16th, 2015, for a length of 5 years, to expire on June 1st, 2020. Upon approval, U-D Jesuit placed two concrete barriers on Cambridge Avenue east of the alley approach. Also installed was a sign indicating “No Thru Traffic”. The U of D Jesuit High School noted in the 2015 petition that the justification for the closure was related to their interest to expand student parking and improve security for the school. It should be noted that since 2015 there has been no action to expand the student parking lot, as it would require Cambridge Street to be vacated to the expansion. No additional reports have been submit to measure improvement for the school security.

After the 5 year temporary closure period ended, U-D made no immediate effort to extend the temporary closure or to request a permanent vacation of the street. After multiple conversations with representatives of the school, as well as some of the residents, DPW facilitated the physical removal the barriers from the road in January 2023.

On January 16, 2023, DPW received a new application from U-D, requesting to extend the closure for another five (5) year period. This is the request that is before Your Honorable Body for consideration.

DPW acknowledges that there is not 100% agreement between the neighborhood residents on this closure request. Therefore, we have not made a recommendation as to whether it should be approved or denied. We have however provided background information for Your Honorable Body to take into consideration prior to voting on this request.

There are 59 occupied properties on Ohio and Cherrylawn streets, in the immediate blocks north and south of Cambridge. A petition (attached) was generated and signed by 52 individuals. However, DPW could only verify that eleven (11) of these supporting signatures were from adjacent property owners. The other 42 signatures did not match the owners on



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record. We are also aware of at least one (1) citizen who is on the record as being in strong opposition to the closure.

Finally, for your consideration, it is DPW's Traffic Engineering Division's position that the closure of this one block will have no major negative impact on traffic flow through the community. All other impacted city departments and utilities have reported no objections to the temporary closure, provided they always have rights of ingress and egress to their facilities. Provisions protecting the rights of the utilities and the City are a part of this resolution.

The Department of Public Works has prepared the attached resolution to be considered by Your Honorable Body.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Doherty', written over a horizontal line.

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

Cc: Ron Brundidge, Director - DPW
Mayor's Office - City Council Liaison

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

RESOLVED, The City Engineering Division – DPW is hereby authorized and directed to issue permit for the temporary closure of the public right-of-way, further described as:

Cambridge Avenue, lying southerly of and adjacent to lot 548 and northerly of and adjacent to lot 549 of “Chester Heights Subdivision” as recorded in Liber 42, Page 49 of Plats, Wayne County Records.

PROVIDED, That the petitioner shall file with the Finance Department and/or City Engineering Division – DPW an indemnity agreement in the form approved by the Law Department. The agreement shall save and protect the City of Detroit from all claims, damages or expenses that may arise by reason of the issuance of permits and the faithful or unfaithful performance by the petitioner of the terms thereof. Further, the petitioner shall agree to pay all claims, damages or expenses that may arise out of the maintenance of the temporary public street closing; and

PROVIDED, the property owned by the petitioner and adjoining the temporary public street closing shall be subject to the proper zoning or regulated use (Board of Zoning Appeals Grant) over the total width and length of the street; and

PROVIDED, No building or other structures of any nature whatsoever shall be constructed on or over the public right of way. The petitioner shall observe the rules and regulations of the City Engineering Division – DPW. The City of Detroit retains all rights and interests in the temporary closed public right of way. The City and all utility companies retain their rights to service, inspect, maintain, repair, install, remove or replace utilities in the temporary closed public rights of way. Further, the petitioner shall comply with all specific conditions imposed to ensure unimpeded 24 hour-per-day access to the City and utility companies; and

PROVIDED, This resolution does not permit the storage of materials, displays of merchandise or signs within the temporary closed public rights of way. Further, the placement of materials, merchandise, or signs on any adjacent temporary area is prohibited; and

PROVIDED, that if there is still a need for access from any of the abutting property owners to said temporary closed street, access shall and must be maintained for those properties; and

PROVIDED, that at the expiration of the permit, all obstructions shall be removed at the petitioner’s expense. The public property shall be restored to a condition satisfactory to the City Engineering Division – DPW by the petitioner at the petitioner’s expense; and

PROVIDED, that this resolution is revocable at the will, whim, or caprice of the Detroit City Council without cause. The petitioner waives the right to claim damages or compensation for removal of encroachments. Further, the permittee acquires no implied or other privileges hereunder not expressly stated herein. If this permit is continued for the five (5) year period, the City Council may (Upon written request and if the circumstances justify accordingly) grant an extension thereto; and

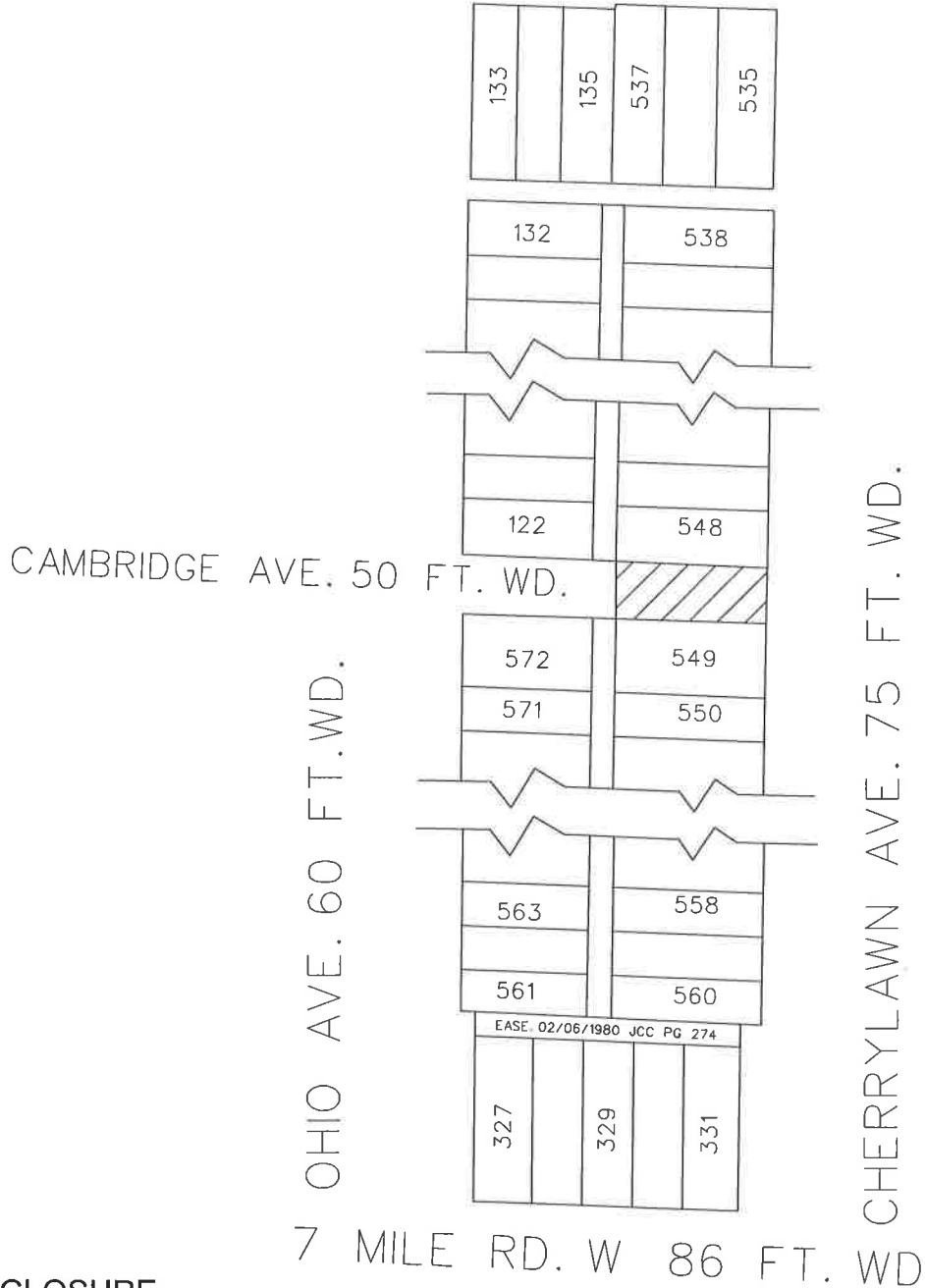
PROVIDED, that this permit shall not be assigned or transferred without the written approval of the Detroit City Council; and further

PROVIDED, That the City Clerk shall within 30 days record a certified copy of this resolution with the Wayne County Register of Deeds.

MAP-23-2



OUTER DR. W. 150 FT. WD



-CLOSURE

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

CARTO 88 E

B					
A					
DESCRIPTION	DRWN	CHKD	APPD	DATE	
REVISIONS					
DRAWN BY	MW	CHECKED	JD		
DATE	01-13-23	APPROVED	JD		

REQUEST TO MAINTAIN CLOSURE
OF PORTION OF CAMBRIDGE AVE
BETWEEN CHERRYLAWN AND
FIRST ALLEY WEST

CITY OF DETROIT	
CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION	
SURVEY BUREAU	
JOB NO.	23-2
DRWG. NO.	X 540