



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
WORKS**

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
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October 14, 2024

Honorable City Council:

**RE: Petition No. x2024-359 – Samantha Knight request to vacate with an easement the east-west public alley bounded by Raymond Ave., Traverse St., Grace St., and Woodland Ave.**

Petition No. x2024-359 – Samantha Knight request to vacate with an easement the east-west public alley bounded by Raymond Ave., 50 ft. wide, Traverse St., 60 ft. wide, Grace St., 50 ft. wide and Woodland Ave., 60 ft. wide

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

The request was approved by the Solid Waste Division – DPW, Traffic Engineering Division – DPW, and City Engineering - DPW.

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) has no objection provided certain provisions are met. The DWSD provisions are a part of the attached resolution.

All other involved City Departments, and privately owned utility companies have reported no objections. Provisions protecting utility installations are part of the attached resolution.

I am recommending adoption of the attached resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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**, and alley bounded by Raymond Ave., 50 ft. wide, Traverse St., 60 ft. wide, Grace St., 50 ft. wide and Woodland Ave., 60 ft. wide, further described as land in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan being:

Public alley lying northerly of and adjacent to lots 522 through 560, and lying southerly of and adjacent to lots 327 through 365 of the "Fairmount Park Subdivision" from Liber 16, Page 99 of Plats, Wayne County Records

Be and the same is hereby vacated as public right-of-way and converted into a private easement for public utilities of the full width of the right-of-way, which easement shall be subject to the following covenants and agreements, uses, reservations and regulations, which shall be observed by the owners of the lots abutting on said right-of-way and by their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, forever to wit:

First, said owners hereby grant to and for the use of the public an easement or right-of-way over said vacated public alley herein above described for the purposes of maintaining, installing, repairing, removing, or replacing public utilities such as water mains, sewers, gas lines or mains, telephone, electric light conduits or poles or things usually placed or installed in a public right-of-way in the City of Detroit, with the right to ingress and egress at any time and over said easement for the purpose above set forth.

Second, said utility easement or right-of-way in and over said vacated alley herein above described shall be forever accessible to the maintenance and inspection forces of the utility companies, or those specifically authorized by them, for the purpose of inspecting, installing, maintaining, repairing, removing, or replacing any sewer, conduit, water main, gas line or main, telephone or light pole or any utility facility placed or installed in the utility easement or right-of-way. The utility companies shall have the right to cross or use the driveways and yards of the adjoining properties for ingress and egress at any time to and over said utility easement with any necessary equipment to perform the above-mentioned task, with the understanding that the utility companies, other than that specifically prohibited by this resolution, shall restore the easement surface to a satisfactory condition,

Third, said owners for their heirs and assigns further agree that no buildings or structures of any nature whatsoever including, but not limited to, concrete slabs or driveways, retaining or partition walls (except necessary line fences or gates), shall be built or placed upon said easement, nor change of surface grade made, without prior approval of the City Engineering Division – DPW,

Fourth, that if the owners of any lots abutting on said vacated alleys shall request the removal and/or relocation of any existing poles or other utilities in said easement; such owners shall pay all costs incidental to such removal and/or relocation, unless such charges are waived by the utility owners,

Fifth, that if any utility located in said property shall break or be damaged as a result of any action on the part of said owners or assigns (by way of illustration but not limitation) such as storage of excessive weights of materials or construction not in accordance with Section 3, mentioned above, then in such event said owners or assigns shall be liable for all costs incidental to the repair of such broken or damaged utility; and

PROVIDED, that property owners maintain for DTE Energy, full access to their facilities at all times (i.e. gated access with DTE locks at all ends of the easement) and that free and easy access to the DTE facilities is reserved for DTE equipment, including the use of backhoes, bull dozers, cranes or pipe trucks, and other heavy construction equipment, as necessary for the alteration or repair of DTE facilities, and further

PROVIDED, that an easement, the full width of the existing right-of-way, is reserved for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for the purpose of installing, maintaining, repairing, removing, or replacing any sewers, water mains, fire hydrants and appurtenances, with the right of ingress and egress at any time to, and over said easement for the purpose above set forth; and be it further

PROVIDED, that free and easy access to the sewers, water mains, fire hydrants and appurtenances within the easement is required for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department equipment including the use of backhoes, bull dozers, cranes or pipe trucks, and other heavy construction equipment, as necessary for the alteration or repair of the sewer or water main facilities; and be it further

PROVIDED, that said owners of the adjoining property, for themselves, their heirs and assigns, agree that no building or structure of any nature whatsoever, including porches, patios, balconies, etc., shall be built upon said easement without prior written approval and agreement with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; and be it further

PROVIDED, that if any time in the future, the owners of any lots abutting on said vacated alley shall request the removal and/or relocation of the aforementioned utilities in said easement, such owners shall pay all costs incident to such removal and/or relocation. It is further provided that if sewers, water mains, and/or appurtenances in said easement shall break or be damaged as a result of any action on the part of the owner, or assigns, then in such event, the owner or assigns shall be liable for the costs incident to the repair of such broken or damaged sewers and water mains, and shall also be liable for all claims for damages resulting from his action and be it further

PROVIDED, that if it becomes necessary to remove the paved alley returns at the entrances such removal and construction of the new curb and sidewalk shall be done under city permit and inspection according to City Engineering Division – DPW specification with all costs borne by the abutting owner(s), their heirs or assigns; 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-24-144

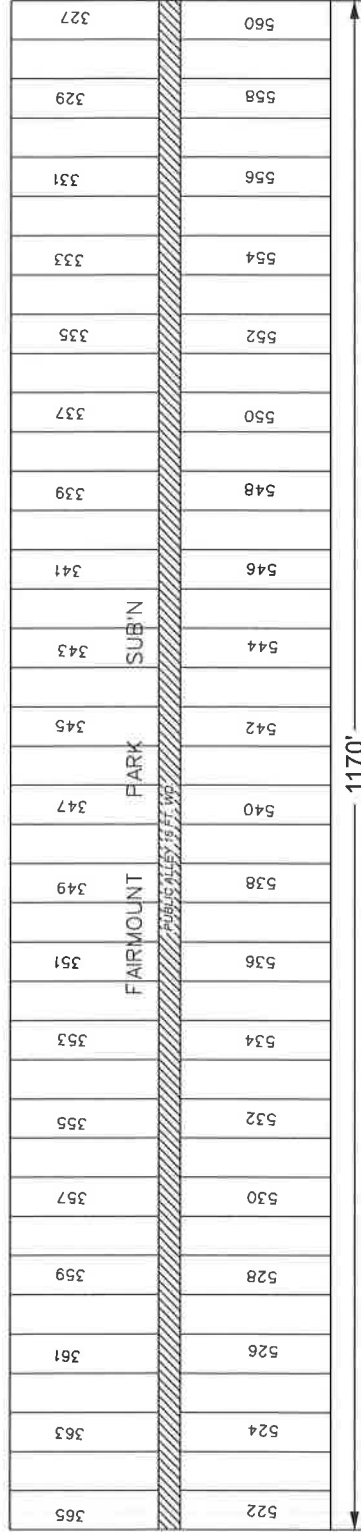


RAYMOND AVE. 50 FT. WD.

GRACE ST. 50 FT. WD.

TRAVERSE ST. 60 FT. WD.

WOODLAND AVE. 60 FT. WD.



- REQUEST VACATION WITH EASEMENT

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

CARTO 58 A B

B					
A	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN	CHECKED	APPD.	DATE
	REVISIONS				
	DRAWN BY	AP	CHECKED	LC	
	DATE	09-20-2024	APPROVED	RW	

REQUEST VACATION WITH EASEMENT  
 EAST / WEST PUBLIC ALLEY  
 BOUNDED BY RAYMOND AVE., TRAVERSE ST.,  
 GRACE ST., AND WOODLAND AVE.

CITY OF DETROIT CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION SURVEY BUREAU	
JOB NO.	24-144
DRWG. NO.	

17 September 2024

**TO:** City of Detroit Council  
**FROM:** Samantha Knight  
**SUBJECT:** Letter of Intent

I, Samantha Knight respectfully request an easement for the alleyway on Grace ST. between Woodlawn St. and Traverse St. The request is primarily to stop/slow down illicit traffic such as stolen cars, drug trafficking, breaking and entering and vagrancy by closing the alley. On more than one occasion (recently) men have been in the backyard trying to steal my HVAC, as well as breaking the glass block to enter the home via the basement. The neighbors agree with this request since it will interrupt undesirable traffic in the alley and hopefully add a layer of protection for our neighborhood.

I have attained the signatures of 07 owners combined on both Woodlawn and Traverse. Some of the owners own the lots next door to their homes as well.

9819 Woodlawn is owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) therefore the occupants signature isn't required, per the DLBA.

The following are my findings, and their signatures are affixed to the petition

**Woodlawn Street**


9615 = Josephine Taylor (owns physical home)  
9621 = Larry Smith (owns physical home)  
9675 = Anthony Watson (owns physical house)  
9777 = Hattie Deloach (owns physical home)  
9783 = Hattie Deloach (owns lot next door)  
9825 = Samantha Knight (owns physical house)  
9827 = Samantha Knight (owns lot next door)

**Traverse Street**

9626 = Paul Brown (owns physical house)  
9620 = Paul Brown (owns lot next door)  
9710 = Kevin Bell (owns physical house)  
9818 = Patricia Johnson (owns physical house)  
9824 = Samantha Knight (owns lot next door)  
9830 = Samantha Knight (owns lot next door)

9608 = Eugene Singleton says he's the owner  
9614 = Kimberly Thomas says she's the owner

V/r

  
Samantha Knight  
313-333-3302

City of Detroit

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION**

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center - 6th Floor

We, the undersigned individuals owning property adjacent to the proposed right-of-way to be vacated have no objections to the request of the petitioner. This petition requires consent by 2/3 of the adjacent owners in residential areas. Commercial areas require 100% of adjacent owners to consent. Properties owned by a business or other entity must be signed by an authorized agent in order to be counted in this petition.

By signing this petition the property owner is confirming awareness of the following changes to their property:

- (1) Vacating the proposed street or alley will result in the property owner being allocated ownership of 1/2 of the street or alley (conditional to the design of the subdivision) and will cause the property assessment to be adjusted to include the increase in square footage.
- (2) Drainage fees to the property will be adjusted based on any added impervious surfaces added to the property. Please contact the Department of Water and Sewage for additional questions regarding rates.
- (3) Garages orientated toward the alley may no longer be accessible by the alley. Upon approval of this petition the alley will no longer be considered public. The property owner waves their right to access their property using the alley.

Commercial properties are subject to the conditions of their land use grant. Which may require permission from the Buildings and Safety Engineering and Environment Department or the Board of Zoning Appeals prior to changing the limits of their property.

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

✓ Larry Smith 9621 Woodhawn 8/28/2024

SIGNATURE

Larry Smith

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

✓ KEVIN BELL 8/28/ 2024

SIGNATURE

Kevin Bell

9710  
TRAVERSE

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

✓ Paul G. Brown 9626 Travers St 8-28-24

SIGNATURE

Paul G Brown #313-571-0052

(9626 House  
9620 LOT)

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

00 =

✓ Kimberly Thomas 9614 TRAVERSE ST 8/28/24

SIGNATURE

Thomas 313/458 8004

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

✓ Hattie B. DeLoach 9777 Woodlawn 8/28/24

SIGNATURE

Hattie B. DeLoach 9777 Woodlawn

9777 House  
9783 LOT,

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

POD =

✓ Eugene Singleton 9608 TRAVERS 8-28-24

SIGNATURE

Eugene Singleton

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

✓ Josephine Taylor 8-28-24

SIGNATURE

Josephine Taylor 9615 Woodlawn St.

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

Patricia Johnson

SIGNATURE

Patricia Johnson 9818 TRAVERS SEPT 12 2024

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

✓ Robert Smith III 9794 Travers 9-12-24

SIGNATURE

Robert Smith III

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

Anthony Watson 9675 Woodlawn St 9/13/24

SIGNATURE

Anthony Watson

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

Knight, Samantha 9825 Woodlawn (house)

SIGNATURE

[Signature] 9827 Woodlawn (Lot)  
9824 Traverse (Lot)  
9830 Travers (Lot)

PRINT NAME / ADDRESS / DATE SIGNED

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SIGNATURE

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