

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 08/09/2022 08:12 AM

Council File No: 20-1482

Comments for Public Posting: As a direct neighbor to the Maltman street vacation application, I would like to clarify motivation and provide context. My family has owned my property since the 1940s and were established in the Silverlake area since the 1900s. I have raised my children in this home and we are deeply embedded in and committed to our neighborhood and community. My children attended the local public schools, played in the parks and recreation sports programs and have lifelong friendship in the neighborhood. I work nearby and have the luxury of teleworking from home most days now. We value our home surroundings and are grateful for the amazing street we live on. The unimproved street next to us, has been a source of concern and frustration dating back to my grandparents. My grandmother worked into her later years hand weeding the street and maintaining it. As her health decline this became increasingly difficult and the City finally provided relief after many years of inspections and eventual approval. In 2001, the City notified my family that the area in question is a public right-of way and the responsibility of the Bureau of Street Services. This made the City responsible for the area, which was maintained periodically for many years. At times, crews would come and perform the weed abatement and clear the area and at other times there would be long stretches when it would be left unattended. Several years ago, there was again a long stretch in which weeds were out of control and the area was in terrible shape with trash and at time furniture being dumped there. After waiting for the City to take care of it, we were shocked to receive a hefty weed abatement fine from the City. We immediately contacted the City to rectify the issue and after much time spent inquiring, providing proof and following up with various officials, we were eventually informed that laws had changed and we were now responsible for the maintenance of this area. Although this was not fair, we had no option but to hire a crew ourselves to get the area cleaned, as it was a fire and safety hazard. The burden of continuing to maintain an area which we have no ability to keep safe or prevent unwanted activity from occurring there, is not a realistic situation. As invested neighborhood members, we want to maintain the beauty of our street. My home is part of my family legacy and it will remain for my children and hopefully one day, their children. My children are already the 5th generation to

consider this their home. This vacation process is a way to ensure the safety of the area. Public access and easements will always remain, and we are committed to keeping our street and neighborhood the wonderful place that it is.