

Communication from Public

Name: Emma Howard
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Council File No: 20-1482
Comments for Public Posting: Letter from Councilmember Soto-Martinez



HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ
Councilmember, Thirteenth District

March 19, 2024

RE: Council District 13 Position Regarding Council File 20-1482 “Maltman Avenue / Crestmont Avenue / Effie Street / Street Vacation”

Honorable Members of the Public Works Committee,

In 2020, the adjacent property owners to the unimproved and steep sloped segment of Maltman Avenue which is between Crestmont Avenue and Effie street initiated an application to vacate. They have represented to my office that this application was made with the hopes of preventing any issues they felt were related to their proximity to an unimproved street.

However, as the council record for this file demonstrates, many other members of the Silverlake Community view this segment of Maltman as an asset, and value their pedestrian access to the sidewalks on Maltman, used by residents uphill as a point of access to the Sunset Triangle and Sunset Boulevard as a whole.

Any vacation of Maltman Street will also require that the City still maintain an easement for access to our sewer line located on Maltman. As a result, while the application for this vacation may be motivated with hopes of securing and or fencing this unimproved site, realistically speaking, given the City’s need to access public assets in the current right of way, enclosure is not something we’d recommend even if I were inclined to support this vacation.

Therefore it is the position of this Council Office that while there is clearly a desire and a need for the City to address some of the shared maintenance issues located on Maltman, approval of this vacation will not be of benefit to the community as a whole. Our office also believes the applicants themselves would ultimately come to regret obtaining this vacation over time. Therefore I respectfully seek your denial of the request to vacate.

Further questions may be directed to Emma Howard (emma.howard@lacity.org), my Director of Community Development and Planning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hugo Soto-Martinez
Los Angeles City Councilmember for the Thirteenth District
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