

Edwards,Michelle

From: Lorrie Heber <lorrie.heber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: EXTERNAL -Special Ordinance 20

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Help Desk

For the record. I have emailed each councilperson directly.

As a resident of 2604 Deming Street in the neighborhood impacted by Special Ordinance 20, I respectfully ask that you vote against the request to vacate any portion of 27th Street between Wilson Street and Oak Street.

This measure, if adopted, would severely limit the walkability and bikeability in our neighborhood and have a negative impact on our quality of life.

South of Poplar Street and east of 25th Street there is only 27th Street between it and 29th Street. Sidewalks on all streets are non-existent (with a few exceptions) east of 27th Street. 29th Street is busy, narrow, and has no shoulder let alone sidewalk. 25th Street's sidewalk is narrow, does not accommodate bicycles, and is at the western edge of places most traveled to by foot or bike. And once 25th Street reaches Poplar, sidewalks disappear. Places mainly being accessed are The Meadows, Baeslers Market, the bike and walking routes on Ohio Boulevard, Deming Park, and the National Road Heritage Trail.

27th Street is the only north/south path that is relatively free of traffic and provides a safer path for walkers and bikers to access

these places. When my husband and I moved here in 1992, the section of 27th Street between Crawford and Wilson had been vacated but the homeowners kept a path between their two properties that allowed foot/bike traffic to pass through. Within a few years, that path was blocked off and is no longer accessible. We do not know the intent of the City Council at the time that section was vacated but the encroachment is now complete. Walkers and bikers must now go a block east to Wilson Drive and around to get back on 27th Street. Even with that detour, it is much more desirable and safe to get back to 27th Street rather than attempt to traverse 29th Street. Once past Oak Street on 27th Street, walkers and bikers typically cut through the church lot and walk/bike to access places listed above.

Is this optimal? No. But this path is much safer than being pushed out to 25th or 29th Streets. Might there be a better solution such as widening 29th Street and creating a complete street? Certainly. But 27th Street should remain open until that day comes. And while it might be tempting to narrow your easement on that property, I worry that it will likely result in exactly what occurred on 27th between Crawford and Wilson where the homeowners eventually encroach and make it impassable.

We are blessed with many amenities on our "desirable Eastside." But proximity without access is meaningless. As someone who has worked for more than 30 years to help improve the quality of life and health in our fair city, I can say with confidence that each step forward is and has been a struggle. Taking a step backward is the absolute wrong direction.

I, again, respectfully ask that you vote against this measure. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 812-236-6432.

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Lorrie Heber

"There is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it--if only we are brave enough to be it." Amanda Gorman