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City of West Allis Matter Summary

7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

File Number	Title	Status
2003-0289	Communication	In Committee
Communication from City Engineer regarding petition received from Mr. Ken Lyman, 2134 S. 79 St. asking for No Parking Zones on W. Becher St. from S. 78 St. to S. 79 St.		
Introduced: 5/6/2003		Controlling Body: Public Works Committee

Place on file
~~Place on file~~

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

ACTION DATE:	MOVER	SECONDER		AYE	NO	PRESENT	EXCUSED
8-5-03 9-2-03			Barczak				
			Czaplewski				
			Kopplin				
			Lajsic				
			Narlock	x			
			Reinke				
	b		Sengstock	x			
			Trudell	x			
		x	Vitale	x			
			Weigel	x			
			TOTAL	5	0		

SIGNATURE OF COMMITTEE MEMBER (RECORDER)

[Signature]
 Chair Vice-Chair Member

COMMON COUNCIL ACTION *Placed on file*

ACTION DATE:	MOVER	SECONDER		AYE	NO	PRESENT	EXCUSED
9-2-03			Barczak	✓			
			Czaplewski	✓			
			Kopplin	✓			
			Lajsic	✓			
	✓		Narlock	✓			
			Reinke	✓			
		✓	Sengstock	✓			
			Trudell	✓			
			Vitale	✓			
			Weigel	✓			
			TOTAL	10	0		



CITY OF WEST ALLIS

WISCONSIN



Engineering Department

MICHAEL G. LEWIS
City Engineer

May 6, 2003

Board of Public Works
City of West Allis
West Allis, WI 53214

**RE: No Parking at Alley Entrance/Exit
Mr. Lyman, 2134 South 79th Street**

Dear Board Members:

We received a petition from Mr. Ken Lyman, 2134 79th Street requesting that 15 feet on either side of the alley (bounded by 78th & 79th Streets) exit onto Becher Street be posted no parking.

My staff has reviewed the situation and have reported back to me that this alley entrance/exit is similar to hundreds of alleys that we have around the City of West Allis. The conflicts that exist between the traffic using W. Becher St. and traffic using the alley are no greater here than anywhere else in the City of West Allis or the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

To install an additional no parking area (other than the area already designated by state statute for driveways in general) would not solve the conflicts between the traffic. Anytime anyone enters a roadway from an alley, the traffic in the alley must stop and then yield the right-of-way. This means that the traffic in the alley must be patient and wait for an opportunity to enter the traffic stream. We understand that people may not want to be patient or to use alternate routes that may involve less traffic conflicts. But the fact remains, that the amount of traffic using the alley is a very small number when compared to the amount of traffic using W. Becher St.

My staff goes on to report that during the morning and evening rush, traffic volume on W. Becher St. is high, but is not congested or traveling at excessive speeds. On the other hand, W. Grant St. does not experience much of an increase in traffic during the rush periods. Actually, the alley opening at W. Grant St. has considerably less potential for traffic conflicts. I realize that going the other way down the alley would be an inconvenience to the residents that signed the petition. But, in the interest of their safety, that would be a better direction for them to travel even if it's decided to place the signs as requested.

Alley entrances/exits or even a private driveway is a known location for traffic conflict.

This is why we review all driveway opening permits very carefully and at times have to
City Hall, 7525 West Greenfield Avenue 53214 ■ Phone (414)302-8360 ■ Fax (414)302-8366 ■ TDD (414)302-8432

mlewis@ci.west-allis.wi.us ■ <http://www.ci.west-allis.wi.us>

recommend denial. However, the amount of traffic conflict here is no greater than anywhere else within the City of West Allis. It is just a fact of driving within an urban environment that parked cars will sometimes limit a driver's ability to see.

We have very few, if any, other alley entrances/exits posted for no parking. Probably for good reason, since a no parking sign costs about \$80 to place and you would need 2 for each entrance/exit. With about 425 alleys and assuming 2 entrances/exits each, this would come to about \$136,000 for the whole city.

We also question Mr. Lyman facts. He mentions that since moving to the neighborhood about 2 and one-half years ago, he has seen four accidents at this spot with one of them being a personal injury. He goes on to mention that his son (age unknown) had an accident on March 12, 2003. We checked with the Police Department and they reported back to us on March 26th that there were no accidents involving or caused by vehicles exiting the alley onto Becher Street. Maybe his sons March 12 accident didn't get in the computer soon enough, but there were not *four* other accidents according to the Police reports.

But the real problem here is that 15 feet on either side will not help. I hope the attached pictures come up for you (if they don't, I will have them for Tuesday night). They were taken by me in my Saturn car. I think they clearly show that no parking for 15 feet on either side would simply not help. In order for clear visibility, we would need no parking along the whole street, which of course, would move the parking (problem) to another location.

It's our recommendation that the petition be filed with no action and we can send a letter to Mr. Lyman explaining in detail the problems with the request. We would also be happy to meet with him.

Respectfully,



Michael G. Lewis
City Engineer

MGL/mgl

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2003

CITY OF WEST ALLIS
CLERK/TREASURER

**CITIZEN'S PETITION
TO THE MAYOR OF
WEST ALLIS, WISCONSIN**

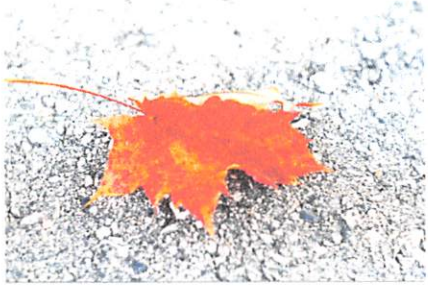
As residents we feel that the intersection of the alley between 79th Street and 78th Street and Becher Street is very dangerous and presents a safety hazard to our neighborhood. Automobiles and trucks parked along the South side of Becher Street surrounding this intersection frequently block vision of any oncoming Eastbound or Westbound traffic for quite some distance. This forces a driver exiting the alley onto Becher Street to expose themselves to considerable risk of an accident and personal loss due to the blocked vision. This situation has existed for several years and despite many accidents, both with injury and without, the city has made no improvements towards resolving this precarious state of affairs.

We, the undersigned, petition the Mayor of West Allis, Wisconsin to correct this dangerous situation by authorizing a 'no parking' zone extending fifteen feet on either side of the aforementioned alley entrance on the South side of Becher Street. This no parking zone should be clearly marked by signage. We are requesting this as a matter of safety to our neighbors and citizens who routinely use this alleyway and that it is completed as quickly as possible.

We authorize Kenneth Lyman of 2134 S. 79th Street to tender this petition on our behalf to the Mayor of West Allis, Wisconsin.

Date	Printed Name	Address	Signature
3/15/03	Kenneth Lyman	2134 S. 79th St., W.A.	
3/15/03	Tina Brunelle	2105 S. 78th St W.A	
3-15-03	Ted Gansky	2111 S 78th St	
3/15/03	JAMES YANKO	2123 S 78 St	
3-14-03	JAYNE YANKO	2123 S. 78th	
3-15-03	Jeannette ^{SCHAEFER}	2135 S. 78th St	
3-15-03	James Young	2149 S 78 W A	
3-15-03	Virginia Young	2149 So. 78th St. W.A.	
3-15-03	THOMAS POPPE	2197 S 78th St W.A	
3-15-03	Ron Bledorn	2194 S 78th St W.A	
3-15-03	Kristen Budny	2192 S. 79th St WA	
3-15-03	Richard Budny	2192 S. 79th St WA	
3-15-03	Douglas Bartels	2182 S. 79th St	
3-15-03	Joelle Bartels	"	
3-15-03	Thomas Wolf	2156 S. 79th St	
3-15-03	LAURA WOLF	2156 S. 79th St	
3-15-03	ELIZABETH JENSEN	2128 S. 79th St	

Mayor
cc Alderpersons
ENGINEER



Ken Lyman
2134 S. 79th Street
West Allis, Wisconsin
53219

March 17, 2003

Jeannette Bell, Mayor
West Allis City Hall
7525 W. Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

The Honorable Ms. Bell,

I would like to submit the attached petition from my neighbors whose driveways and residences are lining the alleyway between 78th Street and 79th Street, between Grant Street and Becher Avenue. This is a petition to provide a safer environment for those of us who use this alleyway on a daily basis.

You may not be aware of the dangerous situation at the intersection of the alleyway and Becher Street. Because of the parking of vehicles, many of which are "high profile" types, visibility is virtually non-existent when pulling out of the alleyway onto Becher Street. Since I have lived in this neighborhood (about 2 ½ years), I have seen about four accidents because of the reduced visibility. One of which resulted in an injury to a passenger. Frequently, when I leave the alleyway, I feel I am making a "leap of faith" onto Becher Street because, despite my best efforts, I cannot see if traffic is coming or not. I rely on the oncoming traffic to see the front of my car edging out and will either stop or swerve around me. Unfortunately, this was not the case for my son when he exited the alleyway on Wednesday, March 12, 2003. I realize that sometimes an adverse event must occur before a citizen takes action about a problem, and this is that time for me.

When gathering these signatures, every one of the people who signed were quite adamant about the problem citing their feelings of helplessness and fears of their own safety and were eager to sign their name in hopes that the city will respond to the request for posted no parking zones on either side of the alleyway. I might add that the only signatures that I was not able to obtain were those of people who were not home or did not answer the door. Again, I emphasize the eagerness that was displayed to sign the petition of everyone as well as the emphatic concern all of my neighbors have about this intersection. Some have said that it has been this way for many years prior to my moving into the neighborhood. I know that it has existed since I have lived here. Certainly, following an accident, the intersection seems to clear of the parked cars but eventually they do inevitably return.

Police action is not, and has not been, an answer to this problem. The cars parked on the street are often up to the alleyway and the police cannot routinely, day in and day

out, 24 hours a day, monitor the parking for potential violators. Nor should they have to. By having no parking zones, clearly marked, the cars will then have a physical guide to where they can and cannot park. **Everyone agreed that fifteen feet would be needed for safety.** The great majority of people are law-abiding and will respect these posted zones.

I'm sure that the safety and well-being of the citizens of West Allis are the primary concern for you and that it would supercede any issues of convenience or finance that may be involved. I look forward to your quick response to this petition as are my neighbors. I told them that I would forward your response to them as soon as I receive it.

Thank you for your time regarding this important situation.

Sincerely,



Ken Lyman



CITY OF WEST ALLIS

WISCONSIN



Engineering Department

MICHAEL G. LEWIS
City Engineer

August 21, 2003

Board of Public Works
City of West Allis
West Allis, WI 53214

**RE: No Parking On Becher Street Adjacent to Alley Entrance/Exit
Petition from Mr. Lyman, 2134 South 79th Street**

Dear Board Members:

We have reviewed the letter that Mr. Ken Lyman, 2134 79th Street, presented to the Board during the August 5th Board meeting. In that letter, he lists a number of accidents which he claims is due to the visibility problems at the alley entrance/exit onto Becher Street. We have again investigated the Police accident reports and find that some of his information is inaccurate. You may also remember that the Police Chief was in the audience when this issue was first discussed a couple of months ago. He wasn't aware that this alley outlet was any different than any other in the City and to his knowledge it didn't have an unusual amount of accidents.

I received the following information from Brian Block, Traffic and Utility Technician, in response to Mr. Lyman's latest letter.

Based on information received from the Police Dept. sections of the Ken Lyman letter to the Board of Public Works dated Aug. 3, 2003 have proved out to be inaccurate.

Mr. Lyman states, "I therefore went to the West Allis Police Department and requested my own search of all motor vehicle accidents occurring between 78th and 79th streets on Becher Street.

... The results of my request are as follows:

July 21, 2001 @ 1602 hrs

August 22, 2001 @ 1510 hrs.

April 13, 2002 @ 1157 hrs.

May 14, 2002 @ 1750 hrs.

Sept. 10, 2002 @ 1450 hrs.

June 28, 2003 @ 1615 hrs.

The July 21, 2001 @ 1602 hrs. happened in the 7700 block not the 7800

The August 22, 2001 @ 1510 hrs. happened in the 7700 block not the 7800

The May 14, 2002 @ 1750 hrs. happened in the 7700 block not the 7800

The Sept. 10, 2002 @ 1450 hrs. happened in the 2100 block of a sidestreet

The April 13, 2002 @ 1157 hrs. was not received yet but Police will send up report to Engineering for review.

The June 28, 2003 @ 1615 hrs. was after my March request but Police will send up report to Engineering for review.

So, 4 of the 6 accidents listed are unrelated to this alley outlet. The other two will be reviewed for any safety issues with vehicles that exit the alley using standard traffic engineering standards.

I will try to have the other 2 accident reports available for the September 2nd meeting.

We would recommend signing an extraordinary hazardous roadway condition (like Mr. Lyman's example of an unsafe curve). But the facts show this alley outlet is not one of them.

We continue to question Mr. Lyman's claim about his son's accident. Even though his son was unfortunately injured, no police report is available? I checked with Chief Puschnig to confirm that all injury accidents should be reported to the Police and if reported, a Police report would be filed. Mr. Lyman would certainly need a report for insurance purposes and he admits that he couldn't find it?

This location is like thousands of others in the City. It's our recommendation that the petition be filed with no action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a cursive-like shape. The signature is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.