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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council Members

Cc: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

From: Steven Boka, Director of Community Development

Date: February 18, 2014

Re: Request for Temporary Closure of E. 9th Street

Planning,
Zoning,
Building Safety,
Construction Inspection Services,
Public Health,
Housing Inspections,
Code Enforcement

INTRODUCTION: The Muscatine School District has developed plans for the construction of a new Jefferson Elementary School and the demolition of the existing school upon completion of the new building.

BACKGROUND: The Muscatine Community School District has been developing plans to construct a new Jefferson Elementary School on the existing campus generally bounded by Mulberry Avenue, Cedar Street and East 9th Street. As a part of the plans for the new school, the District has acquired and removed several homes on the south side of E. 9th Street. The additional property is intended to be developed into a new parking lot. However, during the construction of Jefferson Elementary, the property will be used for contractor storage of materials and equipment. In order move materials and equipment safely between the contractor lot and the school campus, it is necessary to temporarily close E. 9th Street during construction.

The City continues to work with the District regarding long-term (permanent) plans for traffic management in, and around the campus that includes bus pick-up and delivery of students for both Jefferson and Central Middles Schools, staff and event parking, parent pick-up traffic staging and the potential closure of E. 9th Street. Any request for the permanent closure of E. 9th Street will require further review and approval of the Planning Commission and the City Council, to include neighborhood and community input.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE: It is recommended that the City Council approve the temporary closure of East 9th Street as requested by the District during the construction of the new Jefferson Elementary School and the demolition of the existing school beginning in mid-April of 2014 and ending July 1, 2015. It is further recommended that the temporary closure be conditioned upon the District maintaining ingress and egress for the residential property owners fronting on E 9th Street between Mulberry Avenue and Cedar Street throughout the construction/demolition effort.

BACKUP INFORMATION:

1. Letter of Request

"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain



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**Mayor of Muscatine and City Council
City Hall
215 Sycamore Street
Muscatine, IA 52761-3840**

RE: Temporary closure of East 9th Street for Construction

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

This is to request for the City of Muscatine to approve the temporary closure of East 9th Street, located between Cedar Street and Mulberry Avenue, for construction of the new Jefferson Elementary. The construction is expected to start mid-April of 2014 and continue until approximately June 1, 2015.

The School District and the City are not seeking permanent traffic decisions at this time. The School District and the City will continue to work together to determine the permanent traffic patterns and arrangements for when the building completed.

Existing home owners on East 9th, located between Cedar Street and Mulberry Avenue, will have access to their properties from Cedar Street or Mulberry Avenue. The temporary fencing for the closure will not block the homeowner's property.

This request is to create better vehicular safety for students, parents, citizens and construction workers during the course of the construction activities and is a temporary closure for that period.

Thank you,

Tyler Riley