

## Muni Services Action Item 17-1678

Christopher Croatt

Fri 10/20/2017 5:53 PM

To: Curt Konetzke &lt;District3@Appleton.org&gt;;

Cc: Paula Vandehey &lt;Paula.Vandehey@Appleton.org&gt;; Christopher Croatt &lt;District14@Appleton.org&gt;; Jason Brown &lt;Jason.Brown@Appleton.org&gt;;

Hi Curt,

Please read the following into the record when you get to this particular action item.

*"I'm sorry for not being able to attend this meeting due to business travel. I'd like to express my comments in person but I felt compelled to provide a written statement regarding the proposal for Hall Avenue from Woodland Avenue to Grant Street. This project is in my Aldermanic district and I represent these property owners. I visited the neighborhood on Friday afternoon and conversed with several residents. While I generally support the project and changes as described at the design hearing, we heard from a majority of the neighborhood that they prefer not to have the sidewalk installed. A variety of reasons were provided by the property owners. As you know, these are very difficult situations we get presented with. On one side, we have a sidewalk policy, safe routes to schools program, mobility study, and many other initiatives to promote more pedestrian and bicycle options. In my opinion, one of the major attributes of a sidewalk is the added level of safety it provides pedestrians vs. walking on the street...in this case a street being narrowed by 2'. On the other side, we have a scenario where a nice established neighborhood has grown accustomed to the current arrangement and would prefer it remain the way it is. This is a quiet and peaceful neighborhood with very low vehicle traffic. I'd ask the committee to carefully consider all the input from the neighborhood and weigh it against the costs and benefits of installing the sidewalk. Sidewalks are not free so there is a cost-savings if we choose not to install it. If you feel removal of the sidewalk is justified in this case, then please make an amendment to remove just installing the sidewalk. If I was present, I'd put forth that amendment. As the representative for the district, I feel compelled to support the preferences of the established neighborhood property owners and would ask you to consider an amendment based on substantial citizen input regarding this project. From what I was able to gather, no one is in favor of having the sidewalk installed. All on the east side of the street are opposed and some others on the other west side are neutral to it. I didn't hear any support for putting it in. Please consider removing the sidewalk from the project plan and maintain the current arrangement."*

Thanks!

Chris

Christopher W. Croatt  
City of Appleton  
District 14 Alderperson  
Common Council President  
920-735-9532  
[district14@appleton.org](mailto:district14@appleton.org)

**Please note:** Wisconsin has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from government employees and officials regarding city/county business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communication may be subject to public disclosure.