

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

08-0612R

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 05-0805 BY DELETING 30TH AVENUE WEST AND INSERTING 21ST AVENUE WEST.

CITY PROPOSAL:

RESOLVED, that Resolution 05-0805 be amended by deleting the words "30th Avenue West" and replacing them with the words "21st Avenue West."

Approved:

Approved for presentation to council:

Department Director

Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

Approved:

Attorney

Auditor

ENG SG:jh 10/2/2008

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to "un-do" the proposed conversion of First Street from its current one-way status between 21st Avenue West and 30th Avenue West while retaining the conversion between 19th Avenue West and 21st Avenue West.

West First Street had for many years been part of a matched pair of one-way streets carrying traffic quickly and efficiently through the Lincoln Park neighborhood. It originally carried west-bound traffic from 19th Avenue West to 30th Avenue West and was paired with Michigan Street, which carried east-bound traffic from Carlton Street to the Point of Rocks.

Two major changes in traffic affected this situation. First, the freeway opened, taking most of the through traffic off of the one-way pair. Then the involved portion of Michigan Street was converted to two-way with the construction of the new Lower Michigan Street. This being the case, the city felt that there was no need to retain West First Street's designation as a one-way street, particularly in view of its residential characteristics along most of its length.

The justification for this proposal was further strengthened by the need to allow two-way traffic on First Street between 19th Avenue West and 21st Avenue West. This portion of First Street was designated as a truck route by Resolution 05-0806, and is critical to allow for truck deliveries from Trunk Highway 53 to the Port. Due to various fracture-critical bridges and reduced load limits on I-35 and I-535, and upcoming multi-year construction projects on I-35 entering Duluth, overweight and oversized trucks are being diverted off of the interstate system and need to access the Port via Trunk Highway 53. First Street from 19th Avenue West to 21st Avenue West is the logical direct truck route from Trunk Highway 53 to Garfield Avenue and the Port. It is necessary for the overall transportation link to the Port.

For these reasons, Resolution 05-0806 designated the entire stretch from 19th Avenue West to 30th Avenue West as two-way. But that designation was never implemented as there was not a pressing need for it.

Now, however, the pattern of traffic, the needs of the Port and businesses located along Garfield Avenue, and the load limit issues referred to above mandate that acceptable truck access from Trunk Highway 53 to Garfield Avenue and the Port be provided. The engineering staff has met with residents and businesses located on West First Street, and they have indicated that they wish to retain the one-way designation as far as possible. Therefore this resolution eliminates the previously-approved two-way designation except between 19th and 21st Avenues West where it is critical to the traffic needs of the city.