

10 May, 2021

TO: Councilmember Rebecca Noecker

FROM: Zona Butler

RE: St Paul's Assessments for Street/Alley Seal Coating
(3 Properties - 83/86/133 E Isabel)

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CITY CLERK

I have reviewed the attachments to agenda item #23.

I could not agree more with John Purdy's memo (10 W Delos).

Seal coating the entire west side is a "general improvement to a citywide street system with no special benefit to the assessed property." Also, as of this date, they are in no better shape than when the city did them.

This is especially true for me.

I have three properties on East Isabel.

Two are on the block between Livingston and Robert. That is the block which takes a significant amount of traffic including commercial trucks.

It is also a regular school bus stop which means there are as many as 100 bus trips over this street. The stop is there primarily for the school children who live in Torres San Miguel, which is a Common Bond property. I do not know if they are or are not exempt from such assessments.

Within months of the seal coating, many of the cracks and holes reappeared.

My other property is on the three block section of E Isabel, east of Robert. Those three blocks also take a lot more traffic than a regular residential street, because of the school location.

I do not think it likely that the seal coating was requested by any of the residents. It puts a costly burden on property owners who have no control over the use of the street in front of their property.

Regarding the alley assessments, that seems fair, given that the alleys are primarily used only by the property owners or their tenants.

Another point I want to make is the fact that these assessments get pretty expensive for anyone who owns a corner property.

There are quite few attachments to this agenda item #23. There should be more, given that there are over 600 pages in the assessment roll. That does not count the assessments to properties that already paid.

I do not believe property owners are in any better position to pay these assessments now than they were a year and a half ago when the city postponed the hearings.

all of these
I think ~~street~~ assessments should be retracted and the property owners, who have already paid, should be refunded. The alley assessments could stand.

Perhaps the cost could be offset with federal government covid funds.