

Dear council-members,

In regard to the proposal to create a sidewalk on the west side of Kent Street from Orange to Wheelock Parkway, I just have these last thoughts to share:

One: The few proponents of this proposal had only one argument to support their want to have a sidewalk installed. That is safety. They have not offered a single piece of evidence to support the notion that this short stretch of side road is dangerous. They have merely stated their opinion. My wife and I have lived here at 560 Wheelock Parkway West for seventeen and a half years, and there has not been one instance of injury, minor or otherwise because of motor vehicle traffic on Kent in that entire time. That is a fact. In my opinion, which is just as valid, and in the case of the opinions offered by those not living on the west side of Kent in this one block stretch, more germane, this stretch of street is at least as safe as it has ever been.

Two: As I have suggested above, the opinions offered by those not directly affected by this proposal should not be considered by the council. As of this moment I am aware of only two parties directly affected by this proposal, those two that spoke at the council meeting of May 1st, 2013 who are actually on the west side of Kent on the block between Orange and Wheelock who support this proposal. One of them is being assessed at a surprisingly low amount, \$484.05. The other has a modest assessment of \$1290.80. Those who have spoken against the proposal (whether by written or oral testimony) have assessments of \$1839.39, \$1613.50, \$2420.25, and \$2129.82. I should think that would carry some weight. It has been suggested to me that those controlling more lots have more say. I don't know if that is so (though I'm willing to investigate the matter with a property lawyer) but if it is, I should think the council's decision should be to deny this particular proposal.

Three: Council-member Brendmoen has suggested to me that she would "probably be inclined to move forward with the project if at least half of the block was supportive..." Well, it appears that less than half the block is supportive. To my mind that means the council should not approve this measure. Even if half the block were supportive (and again, evidently that is not the case) that would suggest maintaining the status quo, no action should be taken.

I would ask that this e-mail be included in the public record, and I thank you all for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Stuart Nelson