April 2, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Common Council, City of Racine

FROM: Ronald G. Halvorsen, 3027 Ruby Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin (639-6824)

RE: 3000 block of Ruby Avenue

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Common Council:

I am writing as a citizen, taxpayer, voter and resident of 3027 Ruby Avenue in the City of Racine. I also write on behalf of the other homeowners and residents of the 3000 block who have signed the attached petition relating to the city's planned removal of trees and replacement of sidewalks on this block in connection with the paving of the street itself.

Although we were informed of the planned paving over a year ago, only one person with whom we spoke was informed of the tree removal/sidewalk relocation, and that came just a few weeks ago. However, virtually ALL of us would be impacted. Since this recent notification, we have contacted Alderman Diehl who represents this district and have circulated the attached petition.

The 3000 block of Ruby Avenue is a highly residential street with virtually no through traffic other than the people who live on this block. It has sidewalks on both sides of the street (many squares recently replaced by order of the city), many mature shade trees and a wide street area. Ruby, paralleling North Main, is a street that is "interrupted" in several sections as it travels north and south, thus contributing to the lack of traffic. The loss of shade trees will significantly affect the natural charm and welcome shade that they offer.

With regard to the sidewalk removal, we are told by the city engineer that this is necessary to correct a "kink" (his term) at approximately mid-block. This becomes absurd when you observe that the "kink" is about 3 degrees from straight. The proposed new sidewalk will take substantial portions of many of our front lawns and will place our homes at awkward angles visà-vis the sidewalk.

In my particular case, at 3027 Ruby, this will (according to the plan) destroy a portion of a decorative, stamped concrete walkway that stretches from the current sidewalk to the front door, which we had professionally done at a cost of \$5,500 just last October. Had the city given advanced notice of the sidewalk project, we would have had the opportunity to delay this concrete paving, but now it is in place and is very attractive (see attached photos).

Perhaps the most troubling part of this is the lack of notice and opportunity to be heard on this matter. The form letter notice provided last year said only that the subject was "PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVING." There was no mention whatsoever of the tremendous destruction of our neighborhood that would also take place. Now, we are told that construction/destruction is imminent.

For this reason, and the concerns mentioned above, we respectfully request that the city place this project on permanent hold unless we can come to an agreement on how to pave the street while preserving the trees and sidewalks. We further request that Alderman Diehl follow up to make sure that there will be no more unpleasant surprises.

Respectfully yours,

Ronald G. Halvorsen

Ramalel Stalinen

On behalf of Janet Petrik, Cynthia Magnuson and other residents of the 3000 block of Ruby Avenue

Petition regarding the 3000 block of Ruby Avenue

We, the undersigned residents and/or homeowners of property located in the 3000 block of Ruby Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin, object to any tree removal and sidewalk replacement on this city block in connection with the concrete paving planned for this block.

<u>Name</u>	House Number
Jant Petule	3027
Randel y Halvanen	3027
Sa Follo	3022
CXUQ	3072
Red Shumany	3019
Eller R Growell	3047
Larry D Cordwell	3047
Barbara Brodek	3042
Cynthie & Magnuson	3033
Charles Geterson by Peggy Roblins	3038
Joan & Ceterson by Peggy Rollais	3038
Val Fatos	3016

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Name	House Number
Ryan Townsend	442 Melvin
Jennifer Waite	3045 Ruby
Steve Wate	3065 Roby
Loryh Donalias	453 Lombard
SJeffrey B. Barbar	3058 RUS, AUP
Laurel Barker	3058 Ruby ave
Farento	3070 Ruby AVE
Carold Swenson	3030 Ruhy Ave
Lavilyn Arhelaez	3026 Ruhy Ave.
Benutile	3050 Ruby Ave
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3027 Ruby Avenue Stamped Concrete October, 2013 \$5,548





If sidewalk were removed and replaced at an angle the new stamped concrete would be cut (and ruined) and the pattern would no longer be parallel and perpendicular to the sidewalk.

3000 Block of Ruby Avenue





Can you find the dreaded kink?

Note relatively wide street with many mature trees.



