April 30, 2009

To: City of Racine Personnel

From: David R. Beach Vail & Beach

Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church

Re: Request for an Additional Curb Cut

Until a few years ago, access to our sanctuary (which also is used for coffee hour, public presentations, meetings, etc) was difficult for the physically handicapped. They had to climb a five-step stoop to get into the door, then ascend an additional half-flight of stairs inside. The situation was vastly improved for the ambulatory with the installation of a lift near the southeast corner of our building. The remaining problem concerns those who need wheelchairs and in some cases walkers. Although we are allowed to designate a few parking spaces near the lift as restricted for handicapped use, the curb cut those individuals must use is located at the northeast corner of the College Avenue-Seventh Street intersection. In most cases this means parking near the lift, going west on Seventh Street to the corner, using the existing curb cut, and then traveling back east to the lift door. Our request is that an additional curb cut be installed immediately opposite (i.e., south of) the lift door. So doing probably will require changing the configuration of nearby parking on the north side of Seventh Street.

The accompanying drawing is an attempt to represent the situation visually. As I hope can there be seen, the main entrance to the sanctuary faces College Avenue via a stoop, whereas the handicapped lift faces the tiny alleyway on the East side of our building that separates it from our neighbor to the east, a building included in the Porters of Raoine space.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as questions, problems, or complications arise. To facilitate that, I've provided contact information below.

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