

# Staff Report City of Manhattan Beach

TO:

Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

THROUGH:

Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM:

Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development

Ana Stevenson, Management Analyst

Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

DATE:

March 18, 2008

**SUBJECT:** 

Consideration of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission

Recommendation to Maintain Existing Red Curb on the East Side of

Ingleside Drive just South of 5th Street and Reduce its Length.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council pass a motion to approve the Parking and Public Improvements Commission recommendation to maintain existing red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive just south of 5th Street and reduce its length.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

Installation of signs and markings can be accomplished through existing Public Works programs and budgets.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In November 2007, the City received a request from a resident to paint the curb red opposite from his driveway at 440 5<sup>th</sup> Street on Ingleside Drive. After a field inspection and review by City staff, it was determined that the street was too narrow to provide sufficient turning radius to back out of the driveway. On December 28, 2007, the City painted a 20-foot long red curb across from the driveway.

In January 2008, the City received a petition from local residents to eliminate the 20-foot long red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street because it removed much needed public parking. In addition, the petition stated that curb parking across from the driveway at 440 5<sup>th</sup> Street had never been an issue before.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

As described in the attached report, the Traffic Engineer determined the roadway is 18 feet wide, and vehicles parked opposite the driveway reduce the travel lane to about 10 feet, which is less than the 24 feet generally required to turn onto the street for vehicles parked on the driveway. The Traffic Engineer noted it is general practice in Manhattan Beach to prohibit parking opposite garages or driveways on narrow streets. Based on the prior difficulty in accessing the private driveway, the Traffic Engineer recommended that the existing red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive just south of 5th Street remain in place.

#### PPIC Review

On February 28, 2008, the Parking and Public Improvements Commission reviewed the Traffic Engineer's report, read correspondence and heard testimony from seven residents. Three of the speakers felt that the red curb unnecessarily took away public parking in an area with older homes and one car garages. Three other speakers supported the red curb because it is very hard to get out of the driveway, noting other properties with garages that exit onto Ingleside Drive all have red zones on the opposite side of the street. Finally, the last speaker suggested shortening the red curb to allow more flexible curb parking.

The Commission held an extensive discussion on the potential loss of street parking and the ability to access the private driveway. They emphasized the need for the City's various departments to address potential changes to street parking proactively during the planning process. The Commission asked if the red curb could be reevaluated to minimize loss of street parking. The Traffic Engineer agreed that reducing the length of red curb at the north end would not significantly impact vehicles pulling out of the driveway.

A first motion was made, and failed, to defer taking action on removing the existing red curb on Ingleside Drive south of 5th Street and refer it back to staff to determine whether the red curb could be shortened or modified. The Commission majority felt that the issue could be addressed and resolved without further analysis.

A second motion was made and passed unanimously to keep existing red curb on Ingleside Drive south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street in place and direct City Staff to reevaluate and reduce the size of the red curb if possible.

Notices were sent to the property owners and residents within 300 feet of the intersection at Ingleside Drive and 5<sup>th</sup> Street for both the PPIC and City Council meetings. No further public input has been received.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. **APPROVE** the recommendation of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission.
- 2. **REMOVE** this item from the Consent Calendar and modify the recommendation or provide staff with direction.

Attachments: A. PPIC report dated 2/28/08, with attachments

- B. PPIC Minutes (Draft Excerpt), 2/28/08
- C. City Council meeting notice, 3/18/08

#### ATTACHMENT A.

### CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TO:

Parking and Public Improvements Commission

FROM:

Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development

BY:

Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

Ana Stevenson, Management Analyst

DATE:

February 28, 2008

**SUBJECT:** 

Consider Petition to Remove Existing Red Curb on Ingleside Drive

South of 5<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the existing red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive just south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street remain in place.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In January 2008, Mr. Jon Swidler, at 409 5<sup>th</sup> Street, submitted a petition to remove an existing 20-foot long red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The petition is signed by 15 local residents in favor of removing the red curb because it removes needed parking. In addition, the petition states that parking across from the driveway at 440 5<sup>th</sup> Street had never been an issue before.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Ingleside Drive is an 18-foot wide one-way local street that provides access to residences between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Ingleside Drive is improved with curbs and gutters, and parking is allowed on the east side of the street only. The street right-of-way is 43-feet wide with various parkway improvements on both sides. Several walk streets intersect with Ingleside Drive, including 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

In November 2007, the City received a request from Mr. Matt Whelen, at 440 5<sup>th</sup> Street to paint the curb red opposite from his driveway on Ingleside Drive. He stated it is difficult to exit his short driveway when vehicles are parked across the street. After a field inspection and review by City staff, it was determined that the street is too narrow for provide sufficient turning radius to back out of the driveway. This is one of only two properties that have driveways on Ingleside Drive. It is general practice in Manhattan Beach to prohibit parking opposite garages or driveways on narrow streets. On December 28, 2007, 20 feet of red curb was painted on the east side of Ingleside Drive across from the driveway.

Municipal Code Section 14.36.110 authorizes the City Traffic Engineer to place signs indicating no parking on one or both sides of a street when the width of a roadway does not exceed thirty feet (30'). In this case, the roadway is 18 feet wide, and vehicles parked opposite the driveway reduce the travel lane to about 10 feet, which is less than the 24 feet generally required to turn onto the street for vehicles parked on the driveway. Vehicles parked in the garage have sufficient back-up distance to negotiate the turn onto the street.

It should be noted that at the same time this issue was brought up to the City, the City received a complaint about the residents of 440 5<sup>th</sup> Street using a landscaped encroachment immediately to the north of their driveway as an off-street parking pad, which can only be accessed from the driveway. The City did not approve the encroachment permit and the issue is being administratively addressed by the Planning Division.

It is staff's recommendation to leave the existing red curb in place, which reduces public parking by one space.

Meeting notices were sent to all adjacent properties along Ingleside Drive in the immediate vicinity of the red curb.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the prior impairment in the ability to access a private driveway, it is recommended that the existing red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive just south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street remain in place.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

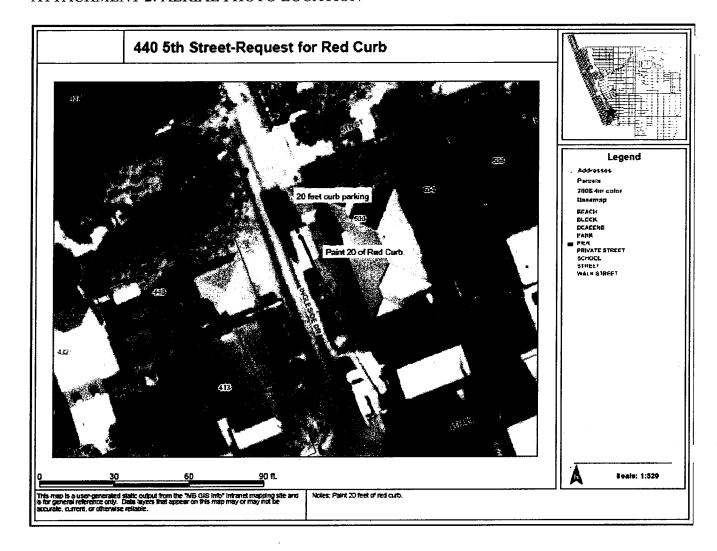
- 1. Location Photo
- 2. Aerial Location Photo
- 3. Petition from Mr. and Jon Swidler
- 4. Meeting Notice

G:\1 TRAFFIC & ROW DIVISION\TRAFFIC ENGINEER\PPIC\PPIC-Ingleside at 5th st red curb.doc

### ATTACHMENT 1: LOCATION PHOTO



Ingleside Drive Looking North at 5<sup>th</sup> Street





#### PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS APPEAL APPLICATION

City Hall	1400 Highland Avanue	Manhattan Beach, CA 90265-4795
Telephone (310)	802-5000 FAX (310)	<b>8</b> 0/2-5501 TDD (310) 546-3501

ENTIRE "BLOCKED" AREA MUST BE FILLED OUT Resident/Applicant: 100 SwidLER MAILING Address: 409 5th Street Phone No. City: MB ZIP Code: 90266 State: CA Appeal Request: Red Curb Parking Traffic Signs/Marks Right of Way DOME PETITION TO REMOVE RED CURB Description: REMOVE RED CURB Petition: Signature: Cashier Initials Date TRAN Code #4502 Amount Rec'd. Receipt# Fee Schedule Permit Appeal \$465.00 Legal Description Page\_ Map Book \_ Comments/Notes Approved/Denied Community Development Department

01/01/04 AS



# City of Manhattan Beach Parking and Public Improvements Commission Petition Form

We, the undersigned residents, do hereby petition the Parking and Public Improvements Commission To consider the removal of the red curbing adjacent to 440 5th Street & Ingleside across the street from 440 Fifth Street. This street parking location was never a non-parking (red curb) prior to the re-development of the 440 5th Street property. The previous property owner had a similar driveway, in approximately the same location and parking was never an Issue. Not only have the local residents lost street parking; the residents of 440 5th Street are using public right-of-way (easement) to park their vehicles. This is not an equitable situation since this new development includes a three car garage that is not being utilized.

We attest that each undersigned person is 18 years or older and is a responsible owner or resident affected by the petition. The designated contact person(s) are: DAYTIME PHONE NO: 310-245-7685 CONTACT PERSON: ALTERNATE CONTACT: DAYTIME PHONE NO: Prone responsible signature per residence is required SIGNATURE PRINT DATE PRINT STREET ADDRESS PRINT NAME SEUF OTHERS OTHERS oTHERS others OTHERS OTH ENS OTHERS OTHERS OTHERS

declare underspensity of perjury, pursuant to the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and confect.

| Consecuted on | 1-15-08 | In Manhattan Beach, California.

#### ATTACHMENT 4: MEETING NOTICE



City Hall1400

Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Telephone (310) 802-5000

FAX (310) 802-5001

February 8, 2008

#### \*\*\*\*\* PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE \*\*\*\*\*

Request for Removal of Red Curb across the Street from 440 5th Street at 500 Ingleside Re: Drive

Dear Property Owner/Resident:

The City recently received a petition to remove the red curb across the street from 440 5th Street at 500 Ingleside Drive and return it to original conditions.

The Parking and Public Improvements Commission will review this appeal at a public meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2008. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, 1400 Highland Avenue, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting and provide comments.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please call (310) 802-5540 or email astevenson@citymb.info.

Sincerely.

Ana Stevenson

Management Analyst

Community Development Department

#### ATTACHMENT B.

# CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING February 28, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2008 at the hour of 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall at 1400 Highland Avenue in said City.

#### A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Gross, Silverman, Stabile, and Chair Paralusz.

Commissioners Absent:

Donahue.

Staff Present:

Zandvliet; Stevenson

Clerk:

Hart.

#### B. AGENDA CHANGES

Commissioner Stabile noted a correction to the motion he made to reject staff's recommendation regarding 26<sup>th</sup> Street parking. In addition to what is currently in the minutes the motion also suggested or recommended that parking be restricted by signage on the south side of 26<sup>th</sup> Street for 100 feet.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet indicated that on Page 2, the third line of the discussion section "can restrict parking as they see fit" should be changed to "has the authority to restrict parking for safety reasons."

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 24, 2008

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Gross/Stabile) to approve the amended minutes of January 24, 2007.

AYES:

Gross, Silverman, Stabile, and Chair Paralusz.

NOES:

None.

ABSENT:

Donahue.

ABSTAIN:

None.

#### D. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The recommendation by this Commission on January 24, 2008 not to take action related to the request for a red curb on 26<sup>th</sup> Street west of Laurel Avenue was upheld by the City Council.

#### E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

#### F. GENERAL

#### 1. <u>Ingleside Drive South of 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Petition to Remove Existing Red Curb</u>

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented staff's report and recommendation that the existing red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive just south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street remain in place.

#### **Audience Participation**

Jon Swidler, 400 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, voiced his concern that the City did not engage the local residents before eliminating two street parking spaces. Many residents in the area live in older homes that only have one-car garages, therefore requiring residents to park on the street and behind garages. He noted that the previous owner who lived in the property almost 40 years did not have an issue pulling out of the driveway from his garage without a red curb opposite the driveway.

Bill Lovold, 400 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, indicated that he has lived in his home with a two-car garage since 1966 and has raised three children who all parked on the street when the time came. He believes that the issue is the red curb reduces the available parking by one and one-half to two spaces. Mr. Lovold indicated that the new neighbor has trouble getting his Suburban in the garage.

Margot Schutte, 500 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, shared that she has a double garage and her driveway exits onto 5<sup>th</sup> Street. There is no red curb opposite her driveway and sometimes she has to ask neighbors who have parked opposite her driveway to move their cars so she can exit. She noted that cars are bigger and the streets are cleaned regularly which both affect the parking. She stated that she is for keeping the red curb in place.

Matt Whelan, 400 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, wanted to set the record straight that the house is newly built and his family moved into it in November 2007. They realized immediately that it was very difficult to get out of their garage in which they do park their vehicles. He noted that the street is only 18 feet wide. Mr. Whelan had photos of the area to share with the Commissioners. He discussed the previous owner, indicating that he was a single man who only had one car. Mr. Whelan said that he has a family and, therefore, more cars. He noted that he did not believe he had forfeited his right to have the curb opposite his driveway painted red just because the previous owner had not found it necessary to request the same.

Mike Maurry, 500 Block of 5<sup>th</sup> Street, shared that he used to rent the garage from the previous owner and that it was very hard to get out of the driveway. He said the previous owner used to cut into the neighbor's bushes as he exited the driveway. Mr. Maurry added that he did a survey from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 7<sup>th</sup> Street and noted that there are 10 garages that exit onto Ingleside Drive and they all have red zones opposite the driveways. If the red zone in question is removed, Mr. Whelan would be the only one without a red zone. He then stated that he was for leaving the red curb in place.

Mike Johnson, 500 Block 5<sup>th</sup> Street, stated that since parking is so limited, he does not think the red zone is necessary. He added that the previous owner, Bud, had to make three-point turns to exit the driveway. Mr. Johnson offered that he does not think it is right to take away two parking spots.

Karla Mendelson, 400 Block 5<sup>th</sup> Street, indicated that she is against the red zone as it is currently painted. She believes that moving the red zone a couple of feet would eliminate only one parking space as long as people park correctly. She added that if the City had approached the neighborhood first a lot of angst could have been avoided. Ms. Mendelson said she would like the city to find a way to maximize the space by allowing parking on the grate and allowing the Whelan's to park on the apron next to their property.

#### Discussion

Commissioner Gross asked Traffic Engineer Zandvliet to explain how the City enforces driveway access on all streets that are 18 feet wide. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet explained that almost all parking reviews are done on a case-by-case basis when requested. He indicated that in this case overall parking was increased although public parking was reduced.

Chair Paralusz asked whether the Traffic Department could look at the red zone again and evaluate whether moving it slightly would add one additional parking space. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet acknowledged that it could be done and that Public Works would need to indicate whether cars could be allowed to park on the sewer grate.

Commissioner Stabile remarked that the issue was déjà vu of the previous Commission meeting and that the impact on public parking needs to be addressed in the planning and permit process.

Commissioner Silverman said that he had driven to the residence in question, pulled into the driveway, and could not have exited without the red curb being where it was.

Chair Paralusz indicated that she also drove on Ingleside and that she agreed with Commissioners Gross and Stabile that the Planning Commission needs to address these issues proactively. She added that Mr. Whelan gave a persuasive argument about not having lost the right to the red zone simply because the previous owner had not requested one. Chair Paralusz

remarked that she does not like to see parking taken away and that she would like to see the red curb evaluated to determine whether an additional space could be found by moving the red zone. She also suggested that in the future the Traffic Department should socialize an action with the neighbors before taking the action.

#### Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Stabile/Silverman) to defer taking action on removing the existing red curb on Ingleside Drive South of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and refer it back to staff to determine whether the red curb could be shortened or modified.

AYES:

Stabile.

NOES:

Gross, Silverman, and Chair Paralusz.

ABSENT:

Donahue.

ABSTAIN:

None.

#### MOTION FAILED.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Donahue/Silverman) to keep the existing red curb on Ingleside Drive South of 5<sup>th</sup> Street in place and direct the Traffic Department to reevaluate and to reduce the size of the red curb, if possible.

AYES:

Stabile, Gross, Silverman and Chair Paralusz.

NOES:

None

ABSENT:

Donahue.

ABSTAIN:

None.

MOTION PASSED.

## 2. <u>Alley between 542 and 544 Marine Avenue – Petition to Remove Existing No Parking Signs</u>

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet presented staff's report and recommendations that no change be made to the existing "NO PARKING THIS STREET" signs on both sides of the alley between 542 and 544 Marine Avenue.

#### **Audience Participation**

Loretta Wells, 500 Block of Marine Avenue, shared that her mother purchased their home in 1956 and that she has continued to live there since her mother passed. The property has not changed in that time, but others around her have been splitting lots so the amount of traffic in the area has increased. The paved sidewalk next to her house is part of her property and cars park on it causing breaks and the drivers have no respect for others. Ms. Wells indicated that her mother had originally been offered half of the alleyway as part of her property. She also

noted that at one time she parked her 1984 Town Car beside the house and the Fire Department could not get through. Ms. Wells wanted to go on record for keeping the signs in place. She went on to say that she has to repair some plumbing which will require digging up the sidewalk and she wondered whether the City could help with replacing the sidewalk. Ms. Wells also noted that water drained from spas flows down the alley and contributes to some of her plumbing problems.

Jane Reitz, 500 Block of 21<sup>st</sup> Street, began by saying that historically there had never been signs and there never was a problem. She went on to say that the neighbor on the other side of the alley, Annie, had indicated that it was okay to park next to her fence. Ms. Reitz mentioned that there used to be parking for three cars in the alley that was very handy during community events. She hopes that as neighbors everyone can get along and everything can be worked out.

Christine Kirby, 500 Block of Marine Avenue, offered that she believes that the alley should be used as a swing space for car washing, parking during family parties, and similar types of activities.

Kevin Pratt, 500 Block of 21<sup>st</sup> Street, noted that it is a quirky alley. He shared that as a real estate salesman he used the alley to get to Marine because Blanche gets too busy. He suggested a compromise of painting parking lines so people know where to park without damaging the property of others. He added that it does bother him when people disturb and damage Ms. Wells's property. Mr. Pratt also discussed the effectiveness of ticketing illegally parked cars.

Linda Unruh, 2100 Block of Blanche Road, described how people use the alley as a pedestrian walkway to the beach to avoid the traffic on Marine Avenue. She voiced her concerns that pedestrians are at risk because people park and drive on the sidewalk and damage the fence.

#### Discussion

Commissioner Gross inquired of Traffic Engineer Zandvliet whether he had any comments regarding the suggestion to designate parking spaces. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet replied that if the Fire and Police Departments do not require access, the City could allow parking and spaces could be marked on the west side. He also noted that since there are concerns regarding parking on Ms. Wells's sidewalk perhaps the sidewalk should be raised and a curb created although doing so might create new problems for the City. Commissioner Gross indicated that the sidewalk is the homeowner's responsibility.

Commissioner Stabile remarked that he is not in favor of burdening homeowners to create parking and that he is inclined to go along with the staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Silverman suggested that since the alley is small and not heavily traveled, a white line be painted to indicate Ms. Wells's property and the sign taken down.

Chair Paralusz pointed out that a painted line would probably not prevent people from parking on the sidewalk. She added that she drove through the alley and that if a car had been parked next to the fence it would have been very difficult to get around it without driving on the sidewalk. Chair Paralusz indicated that she is also inclined to agree with the staff's recommendations.

#### Action

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Stabile/Paralusz) to accept staff recommendations that no change be made to the existing "NO PARKING THIS STREET" signs on both sides of the alley between 542 and 544 Marine Avenue.

AYES:

Stabile, Gross, and Chair Paralusz.

NOES:

Silverman.

ABSENT:

Donahue.

ABSTAIN:

None.

MOTION PASSED.

#### G. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Gross discussed the delay in necessary repairs to The Strand steps and indicated that the City does not have the money at this time. He said there are two issues. The first is that this Commission be kept apprised of the progress especially related to the money and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The second is that the Public Works Department is not doing any repairs. Commissioner Gross indicated that the worst steps should be repaired to avoid liability. Management Analyst Stevenson stated that the Public Works Department would be at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Gross noted that many of the routine signs on Ocean Drive are blocking views, especially the one at the bottom of 15<sup>th</sup> Street. He asked whether the sign could be moved slightly so that it does not interfere. Traffic Engineer Zandvliet said it will be investigated.

Commissioner Gross attended a Study Session on February 19, 2008 for the Downtown Parking Management Plan and said both the Session and the 70-page document were well worth the attention of all of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Silverman asked that staff look into visibility concerns on Flournoy Road near 31st Street. A discussion regarding the possibility of restricting parking near the corner ensued with the Traffic Department planning to evaluate the intersection.

Noting the issue brought forth at tonight's meeting, Commissioner Stabile addressed the

н.	ADJOURNMENT	
The n	neeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.	
		JONELL HART
		Recording Secretary
		KATHLEEN PARALUSZ
	•	Chair
ATTI	EST:	
ANA	STEVENSON	

importance of evaluating the impact to parking when new construction is in the design phase,

especially for streets having narrow width (less than 40 feet).

Management Analyst

#### ATTACHMENT C.



City Hall 1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Telephone (310) 802-5000

FAX (310) 802-5001

March 05, 2007

#### \*\*\*\*\*\* PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE \*\*\*\*\*\*

Re: Petition to Remove Existing Red Curb on Ingleside Drive South of 5th Street

Dear Property Owner / Resident:

On February 28, 2008, the Parking and Public Improvements Commission reviewed a Petition to Remove Existing Red Curb on Ingleside Drive South of 5th Street. The Commission voted to recommend that existing red curb on the east side of Ingleside Drive just south of 5th Street remain in place and reduce its length.

The City Council will review this recommendation at a public meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, 1400 Highland Avenue, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Any comments you might like to make at the meeting would be welcomed.

Please note, however, that the issue will be on the portion of the council agenda known as the "Consent Calendar", meaning that it will not automatically be discussed. If it is not requested to be discussed by either a member of the audience, a City staff person or a Councilmember, the recommended action will be approved without discussion. At a point at the beginning of the meeting, the Mayor will ask the audience if they would like any items to be removed from the Consent Calendar. If you do not agree with the recommended action for this item, be sure to request that it be removed at that time. It will then be discussed during the portion of the agenda entitled "Items Removed from the Consent Calendar", toward the end of the meeting.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please call or email me at (310) 802-5540 or astevenson@citymb.info.

Sincerely,

Ana Stevenson

Management Analyst