

Dr. Dietram A. Scheufele
2300 Rugby Row
Madison, WI 53726

MariBeth Witzel-Behl
City Clerk, City of Madison
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

March 31, 2008

Dear Members of the Common Council:

This is to express my strong opposition to the proposed reconstruction of Rugby Row and the special assessment associated with it for the property located at 2300 Rugby Row as outlined in your notices from March 14, 2008 and March 28, 2008. I strongly urge the members of the Common Council to reconsider the project or to consider a budget structure that puts less of a financial burden on home owners. This is based on at least two considerations.

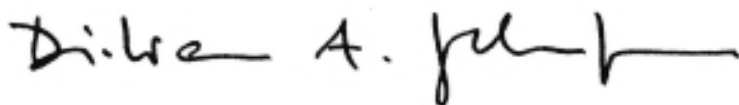
First, the costs assessed to many homeowners for this project will be prohibitive in the current economic climate. In my case, the costs for the reconstruction are more than double what I just paid in real estate taxes to the City this year. These are costs that many homeowners – including myself – have not budgeted for, and that go hand in hand with a plummeting real estate market, a recession, and higher cost-of-living increases than we have seen in a long time. In other words, right now may be the worst possible time to implement this project, especially as many home owners are dealing with necessary repairs to their homes after a long and snowy winter.

Second, these financial concerns are exacerbated by the fact that residents are asked to pay for improvements to streets and sidewalks that are used much less frequently by residents than by the many West High students and visitors of UW football games, who park on these streets during the majority of the year. In other words, having the City shoulder a larger proportion of the costs than the residents is simply a matter of fiscal fairness, given the frequent use of these streets and sidewalks by other members of the community.

As a result, I strongly urge the Council to table the proposed project or find a scenario where the City funds a significantly larger proportion of the proposed construction than outlined in the public notice from March 28, 2008.

Since I will most likely be unable to attend the hearing on April 8, 2008, I would greatly appreciate it if you could share this letter with all Council members. Thank you for all your work and for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,



Dietram A. Scheufele