

June 23, 2018

To: City of Madison Street Use Staff Commission

From: Marquette Neighborhood Association Board

RE: Street closure recommendations



As a follow up to some of the issues that were raised at the Special Event Community Impact meeting held on April 5, 2018, the Marquette Neighborhood Association asks that the Street Use Staff Commission take the following set of proposals/concerns into consideration in setting policy for future street closures and parking restrictions.

- **Notice of Parking Restrictions:** Require that signs are posted a **minimum of 5 days** (and preferably 7 days) in advance of the event. Currently signs are posted only 2 days in advance, which does not provide residents with adequate time to plan.

- **Hours of Parking Restrictions:** Limit the amount of time in advance of an event for which cars must be removed and attempt to impose the least burdensome parking restriction possible. Cars are only required to be removed from Williamson Street for rush hour 30-60 minutes prior to peak traffic. Consider applying a similar standard for events; 1-2 hours prior to the start of the event should generally be adequate.

Example: A recent event in our neighborhood (the Lake Monona 20k run) required that cars be removed at 2:30 a.m. for a race beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Monona, which would not reach our neighborhood before 10:00 a.m.

- **Notice to Neighborhood Associations Prior to Event Approval:** Require event organizers to alert affected neighborhood associations (whose email addresses are readily available on the city website) **both** at the time the permit request is filed **and** at least 4-6 weeks prior to an event if the permit is approved. Early notification will help avert problems with overlapping events.

Example: In June of 2017 MNA learned only a week prior to the Waterfront Festival that the Half Ironman race was scheduled to run down Yahara Place during the Waterfront Festival (which is held at Yahara Park). Resolving this conflict required last-minute route changes and disruption of both events.

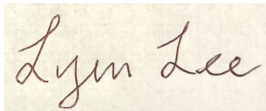
- **Consider Social Justice/Economic Impact of Parking Restrictions:** We request that the City be cognizant of the fact that lower income residents often live in apartments/homes that lack off-street parking, and that therefore the effects of street closures may be felt more deeply by those residents. In addition, since lower income residents are often dependent on public transportation, street closures that affect bus routes can be extremely burdensome.

- **Consider Prioritizing Events that Contribute to Neighborhoods:** Because of the burden street closures/parking restrictions have on our neighborhoods, we request that the City consider a process that prioritizes events that “give back” to or enhance our neighborhoods over for-profit events or events that do not support local causes.

Example: A recently proposed new event that would have run through our neighborhood, the Humdinger 5k, and that would have required street closures and/or parking reduction, was a benefit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and for an athletic program in Verona. The application for that event was ultimately withdrawn after opposition.

We love that our neighborhood is able to host and support so many great events that make our city a better place to live, but would like to work with the Street Use Commission to minimize the impact of these events on residents. Thank you in advance for taking our suggestions into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Lee". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background that resembles aged paper.

Lynn Lee
President, Marquette Neighborhood Association

cc: MNA Board
Brad Hinkfuss, SASY Board President
Patty Prime, TLNA Board President

Panel members at April 5 Community Impact Meeting:

Katie Crawley
Lara Mainella
Brian Chaney Austin
Karl van Lith
Kelly Post
Kay Rutledge
Eric Knepp
Drew Beck
Charles Kamp

