

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Adam Blauert [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Serratto, Matthew; Ornelas, Jesse; Echevarria, Fernando; cityclerk; Perez, Bertha; Blake, Kevin; Boyle, Sarah; Shelton, Delray
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter in support of vacation of Arbor Walk North easement

Cliff Blauert

Blauert Rentals

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

June 19, 2021

Reference item number: K.4.21-467

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Cliff Blauert and I own the building at 524-540 West Main.

I am writing this letter to extend my support for decision of the City of Merced in vacating the easement over property at 531 W Main Street Merced (Arbor Walk North). As the owner of the property through which Arbor Walk South passes, I am acutely familiar with the problems that have developed in the two Arbor Walk easements over the past few years. Not only are these easements used as public restrooms every night, but they have also been the site of multiple fires started by homeless people. There have also been several serious incidents of vandalism, including two this year in the Arbor Walk South easement that could have led to electrical fires.

Arbor Walk North's problems are unique and different from the problems in other City-owned property such as the sidewalks because the Arbor Walk North easement is over private property and because the design of the easements makes them too convenient as places for urination and defecation. When first established, these easements provided benefits to downtown visitors. However with the recently increasing problems of public defecation, vandalism, and arson, these easements have now become more of a danger and a nuisance than a benefit. Even without the Arbor Walk North easement, there will still be plenty of easy access from the parking on 18th Street to the commercial spaces on Main Street and downtown will be safer and healthier.

The majority of property owners in the vicinity support the vacation of the easement as part of an effort to revitalize downtown Merced. I urge you to support us in this effort and vote to close off this easement.

Please consider my letter of support in helping the private property owner reclaim his walkway so that it may be improved by the United Way Community Kitchen project. I could not think of a better way for the City of Merced to continue to improve the Downtown than by turning an eyesore into a beautiful community kitchen and restaurant job training program for our city.

Sincerely,

Cliff Blauert

Owner of 524-540 West Main

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