

Keval McNamara

June 21, 2021

Re: Agenda Item 21-467
Arbor Walkway Easement

Dear Merced City Council,

My family has owned the building at the corner of 18th and Canal Streets for over 100 years. As part of Merced Downtown history, we have witnessed many changes to this area; some have been good for local businesses and some have turned away customers. Closing the Arbor Walkway is bad for the Downtown Business Community because it will not only cut off Main Street from much needed parking, but it also eliminates one of the thoroughfares that makes Downtown a *Community of Business* versus isolated business areas. Closing the Arbor Walkway will turn away customers.

McNamara Hardware, Gift Shop, Sporting Goods, and Toy Shop, and now McNamara Plaza have continually supported Merced's efforts to vitalize Downtown Merced. Steve and Clarice McNamara volunteered countless hours on projects to bring the businesses together in efforts to make Downtown an area where Merced County residents want to shop, eat and be entertained. History shows that an action such as closing the Arbor Walkway will hurt local businesses because they will lose customers.

We are opposed to closing the Arbor Walkway that links Main Street to the 18th Street Parking Lot because it focuses on helping just one business and not the Downtown Business Community as a whole. Closing the Arbor Walkway benefits only the building owner and not the entire Merced community of patrons who support Downtown Merced. We encourage you to deny an Easement of Arbor Walkway to Dwight Larks Realty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Clarice McNamara and Keval McNamara