

Dear City Council,

I am writing in regards to IV Public Hearing part B. I believe it is in the neighborhoods best interest for the land to be permanently closed and granted to Mr. and Mrs. Haske. My impression, since joining the neighborhood in 2008, was that the land belonged to Youngblood Haske. He has always kept it nicely maintained as it sits at the end of his property. It had always been a pleasant corner of the neighborhood until Ryan Jaskot moved in. His actions have created unnecessary drama. I have witnessed him encroaching on the Haske's property and harassing them. My young child has also been subjected to witnessing irrational behavior, when he flung the Haske's neatly stacked firewood across their lawn. I have seen the police dispatched to help remedy the situation, and yet it continues. My hope is that in granting this it will bring everyone some peace.

Hannah Teklu

My name is Paul Holt and I live at 179 Houston Circle, 3 lots away from the proposed right of way closure. I have lived here since December 2015 and have known the Haske's since that time.

This location is a major gateway into the Montford neighborhood, situated close to a highway exit and major City thoroughfares. As such, it is my hope that the City, and neighbors can work together to improve the appearance of the Houston St/Courtland Ave intersection so that it seen as a welcoming neighborhood where neighbors take pride in the appearance and livability of the location.

The Montford entrance at Courtland/Houston suffers from ongoing issues, such as overgrown and unkept lots and frontage (owned by city, corporations such as Duke energy and residents). I have ongoing discussions with City departments to ensure overgrowth is maintained and cut back. It often takes several weeks for overgrowth to be taken care of. The general appearance of the location, and amount of passing traffic leads to issues such as trash dumping, drug use and discarded drug paraphernalia. Abandoned vehicles are an ongoing issue.

The oversized right of way frontage of the lots at this intersection contributes to issues of maintaining overgrowth and appearance. It seems to me that the City only maintain and cut back growth at the curbside, and through personal experience of running gas utility lines to my property, it is evident that that the excessive area of the City right of way is not needed as utilities and sidewalks are routed on the curblines. Further, other lots in the vicinity have illegal structures such as substandard walls that crumble into the roadway, causing traffic, parking and potential safety issues, not to mention detrimental appearance affecting the standard of living for all neighbors. The excessive size of the right of way here leads to confusion in owner/City

responsibilities, *and makes it difficult for the City to hold owners to task in adhering to ordinances in respect of maintaining and developing lot frontages.*

In knowing the Haske's, I can say they are responsible property owners and good neighbors. They strive to improve the appearance of their homestead and yard, and their presence generally improves greatly the look of our neighborhood location. I know they have been struggling with vandalism issues on the area of land that is proposed to be closed. It seems to me that granting the right of way closure would be a win/win/win. The Haske's would gain control of the land and be able to beautify it, and as owners have the rights to control trespass and destruction issues that are affecting their quality of life. The City would gain tax revenue from added acreage and possible future property development and would be saved maintenance and admin costs. Neighbors would gain in the general improvement of the vicinity.

I fully support the Haske's in their petition to close this right of way and I ask City Council approve this item.

Respectfully
Paul Holt

Dear City Council Members,

In addition, for the record I would like to add the following.

I confirmed with city staff that the proposed changes would increase the probationary period for ALL future employees from 180 to 360 days. Why do we need to add six months to the probationary limits if not to significantly reduce the rights of future employees? I understand that to be in the best interest of city management but how is limiting staff rights to bring about greater organizational stability?

I hope that Council members take time to look more deeply at this to consider the impacts on all employees and can hear from others beside city management that is seeking to further limit the rights and privileges of city employees.

Thank you.

Good luck!

-Vaidila

Please attached the transcript of the testimony with minor corrections and expanded information that was edited for the 3 minute time limit.

This was delayed in returning this afternoon due to a regional outage of Spectrum Internet services today.

Please confirm receipt and forward to the minutes for the record.

I realize the meeting was adjourned to Jan. 26 and the minutes including this itme may not be available until then.

Louis Skelton, Architect
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My name is Sarah Haske and I live at 137 Houston Street with my Husband, Youngblood Haske.

First, I want to thank City Council and the Mayor for your time in hearing our request for a public right of way closure that is attached to our property.

I would like to review why this is in our neighborhood's best interest to close this area.

We have a larger than average right of way attached to our yard where my husband has maintained this area since 2003 with no issue until recently.

Since Mr. Ryan Jaskot moved in next door in 2017, we've experienced his unusual and aggressive behavior in a manner where he lurks in and destroys this very city right of way as a means to torment and harass us.

He has vandalized this city right of way by:

- chopping down plants with his machete on numerous occasions
- ripping out and stealing plants
- destroying our split rail fence that borders the area
- leaving behind mounds of dog feces
- mutilating trees in the area
- shoveling mounds of dirt into the area
- attempting to erect a construction fence in the area

In addition to this, he utilizes the right of way as a means to harass us by:

- sitting in the middle of our driveway in a camp chair
- lurking in our driveway on multiple other occasions, sometimes with his dog unleashed
- taking photos, making derogatory comments, and getting uncomfortably close to me when I'm gardening

Meanwhile, Mr. Jaskot claims he needs to utilize this grassy area for his dog when, in fact, he has a large fenced in grassy area behind his home **AND** there's a large public grassy area directly across the street from his driveway.

Even more appalling, he has submitted an application to the Public Works department requesting a picnic table be placed in this city right of way because he quote, "would like to encourage a bigger sense of community."

Mr. Jaskot "would like a bigger sense of community" but goes to great lengths to harass his neighbors and destroy this area for the past 4 years.

We've had to call the police on numerous occasions because of his behavior.

This has clogged up valuable time and resources within **multiple** city departments to try and resolve this unnecessary situation. So far we have not come up with a resolution and his harassment continues.

If the property boundary were more in line with the normal set back from the curb, it would be a clear cut matter for us. We'd be able to better define our property and avoid ongoing issues with the neighbor.

This closure allows our neighborhood to be the peaceful place it deserves to be; And I believe protecting the peace is in the public's best interest.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank all of the city staff who've assisted us thus far and who've taken the time to hear our concerns; their time and consideration with this matter has been invaluable.