CITY OF WEST DES MOINES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING COMMUNICATION

ITEM: Approval of Special Event Lane Closure and Waiver of City Code Requirement - Taste of the Junction Multicultural Festival

DATE: August 19, 2019

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

BACKGROUND:

Ordinance 2013 was adopted by the City Council on November 25, 2013, establishing that street or lane closures for special events on arterial or collector streets shall require approval of the City Council.

Rachelle Long is organizing the Taste of the Junction Multicultural Festival, to be held on Saturday, August 31st from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Railroad Place. This is the second year they are requesting the closure of the 100 block of 4th Street to allow additional room for food trucks. The application meets the requirement for signatures, as the petition was signed by 75 percent of the affected properties. This requires Council approval because 4th Street is classified as a minor collector street.

The applicant has also requested the closure of Railroad Place, as has been done in previous years, which requires signatures from 75 percent of the businesses within the area directly affected, according to City Code Title 7, Chapter 1, Article E, Section 4. This would be approved administratively by staff because it is not an arterial or collector street. As of the afternoon of Friday, August 16th, the applicant has submitted signatures from two of the four businesses (50 percent). They have been instructed to seek at least one more signature to meet the 75 percent requirement; however, because this is the last scheduled Council meeting before the event date, staff is recommending the City Council approve a waiver of this City Code requirement in case they are not able to obtain any more signatures.

A letter was received from Gary and Shirlee LaFollette, owners of 415 Railroad Place, expressing opposition to the closure of Railroad Place for the festival. Staff has notified them that the proposed waiver of City Code requirement will be considered at this Council meeting.

The City is sponsoring this year's event through a $1,000 donation from the Human Rights Commission.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES (if any): None

RECOMMENDATION: Motion - Approval of Special Event Lane Closure and Waiver of City Code Requirement for the Taste of the Junction Multicultural Festival

Lead Staff Member: Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk RTJ

STAFF REVIEWS

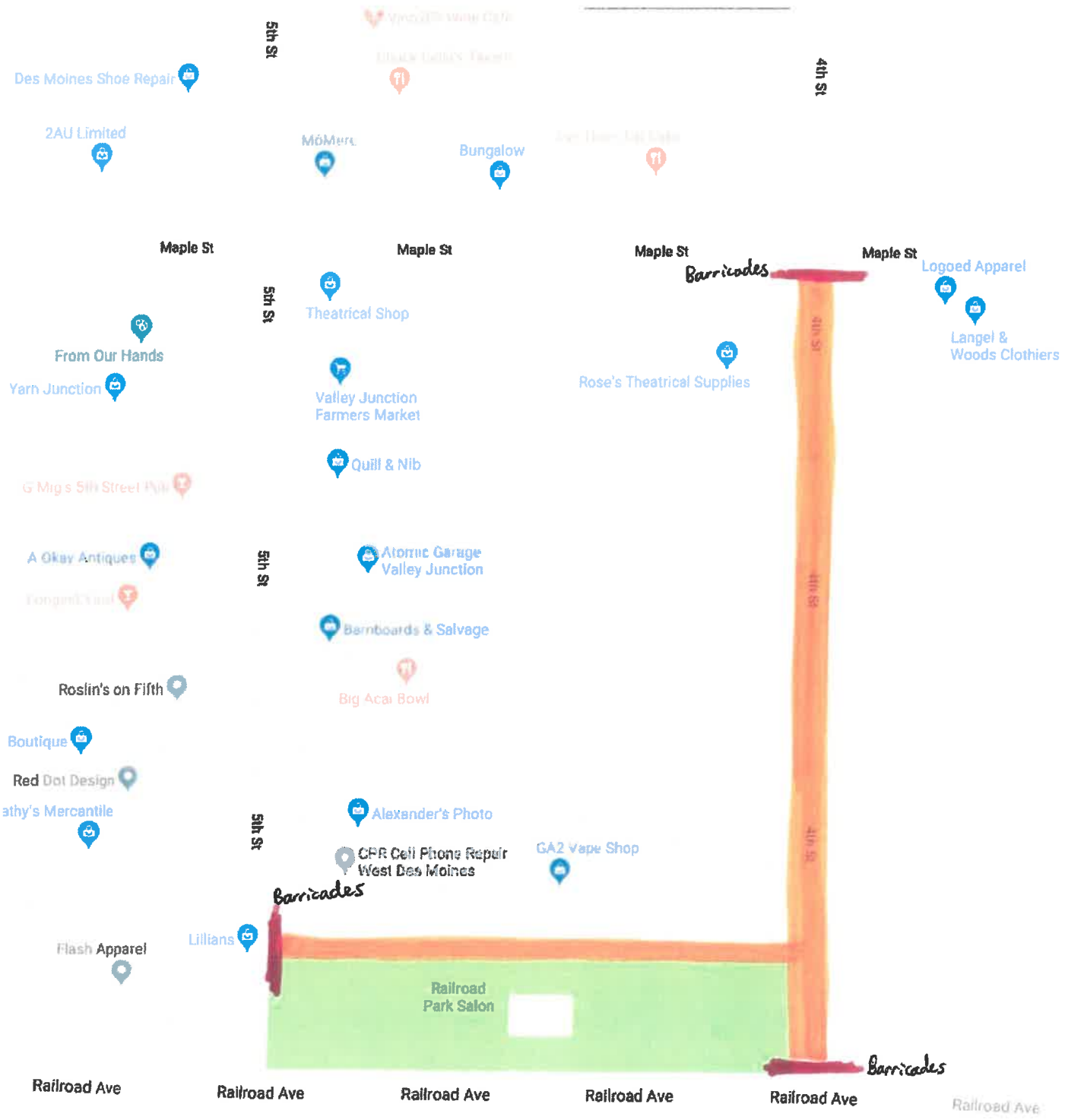
Department Director	Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk
Appropriations/Finance	Tim Stiles, Finance Director
Legal	Richard Scieszinski, City Attorney
Agenda Acceptance	RTJ

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	
Date Reviewed	


5th St
4th St
Des Moines Shoe Repair
2AU Limited
MóMers
Bungalow
Maple St
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Barricades
Logoed Apparel
Langel &
Woods Clothiers
5th St
Theatrical Shop
From Our Hands
Yarn Junction
Valley Junction
Farmers Market
Rose's Theatrical Supplies
Quill & Nib
A Okay Antiques
5th St
Atomic Garage
Valley Junction
Barnboards & Salvage
Roslin's on Fifth
Big Acai Bowl
Boutique
Red Dot Design
athy's Mercantile
5th St
Alexander's Photo
CPR Cell Phone Repair
West Des Moines
GA2 Vape Shop
Barricades
Flash Apparel
Lillians
Railroad
Park Salon
Barricades
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Taste of the Junction

West Des Moines
Block Party Petition

A block party located at: 4th Street (100 Block) + Railroad Place
is scheduled on: August 31st 2019
As a resident of this street, I am aware the street will be closed from 7AM to 12AM and am in agreement with this closing.

Address	Signature of Resident
107 4th Street	— FOR SALE
111 4th Street	
115 4th Street	Jamie Sutter
119 4th Street	[illegible]
123 4th Street	Pauline R. Carlino
127 4th Street	[illegible] Harold Thomason
131 4th Street	
133 4th Street	Loretta Hanson
139 4th Street	— FOR SALE
401 Railroad Place	
409 Railroad Place	Susanna Place
415 Railroad Place	see attached letter —
411 Railroad Place	Alida Huber

To whom it may concern,

Of course everyone who wants to close Railroad Place on Saturday has a good reason—a worthy cause, a healthy activity, etc., but try to see it from our perspective. We purchased this building at 415 Railroad Place and pay property taxes on it with the idea that the street would be open to the public on Saturdays. Most of our business is done on Saturday afternoon because our customers work during the week. We count on the normal Saturday traffic to maintain our business. When the street is blocked off on the one day when we really need it to be open it is a detriment to our business.

There are many other venues that could be made available for these Saturday events. How about the park on 4th street, one of the many public parking lots in the area, or Elm Street between 4th and 5th Streets. There are only two businesses in that block. One is KCL which is not open on Saturdays. The other is a bank which has customer access from 5th Street so it would not stop people from entering the bank's parking area.

Look around—there are other areas which could be suitable for outdoor activities without having to close Railroad Place. Please give this your consideration.

Thank you,

Gary and Shirlee LaFollette

415 Railroad Place

West Des Moines, Iowa 50265