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 15, 2022

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, September 3rd from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Railroad Place and the 100 block of 4th Street. Ever since the event expanded several years ago to include the 100 block of 4th Street, it has required Council approval because 4th Street is classified as a minor collector street.

The application meets the requirement for signatures on the closure of 4th Street, as the petition was signed by 75 percent of the affected properties.

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 typically be approved administratively by staff because it is not an arterial or collector street. However, the applicant was only able to obtain signatures from two of the three businesses (66.7 percent). The business that declined to sign was Gary's Depot, and the owner has submitted the attached letter requesting that the event be relocated.

The City is sponsoring this year's event through a $1,000 donation from the Human Rights Commission and $375 from the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department.

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

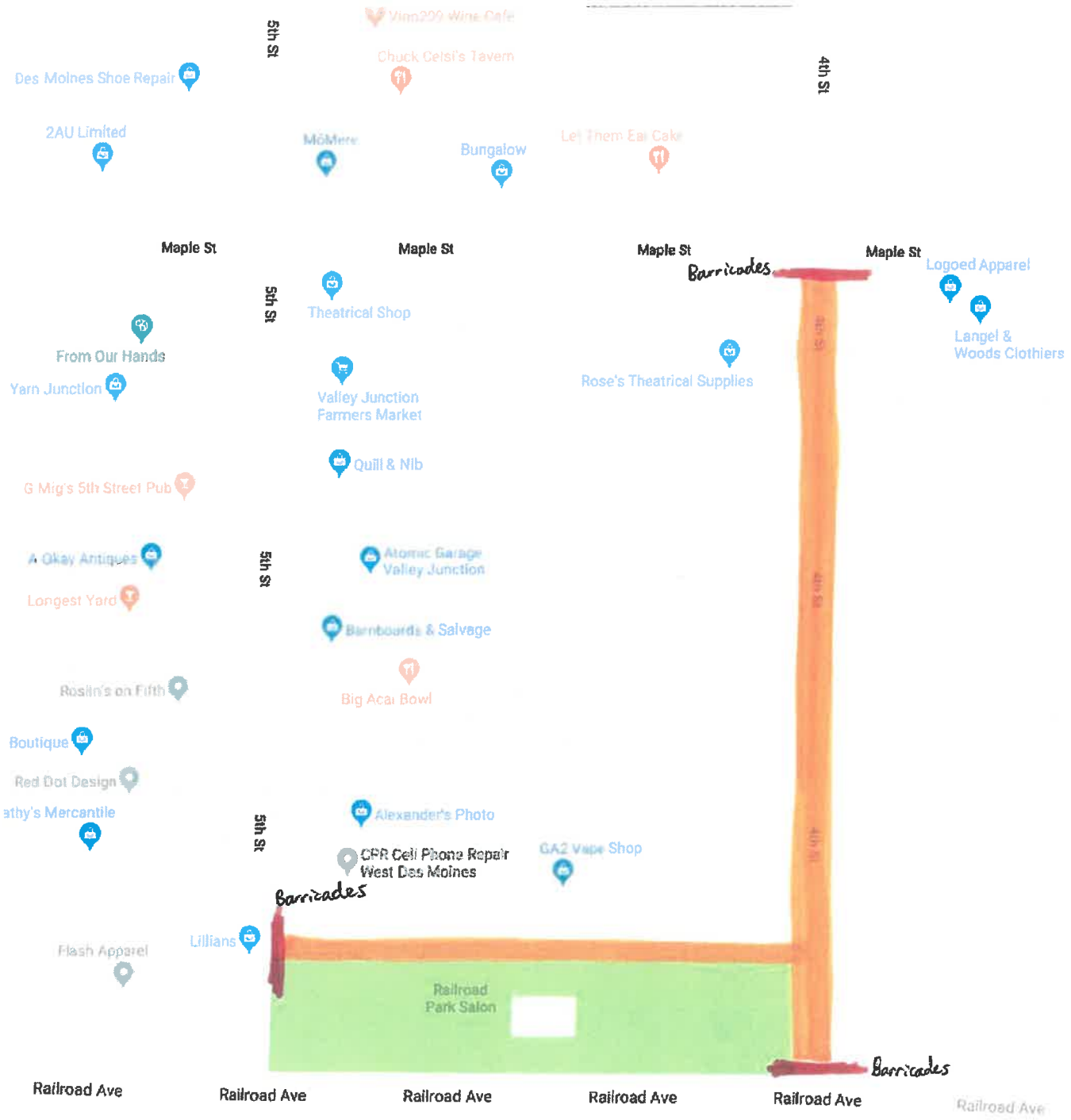
Department Director	Ryan T. Jacobson, City Clerk
Appropriations/Finance	Tim Stiles, Finance Director
Legal	Richard Scieszinski, City Attorney
Agenda Acceptance	RTJ

PUBLICATION(S) (if applicable)

Published In	
Dates(s) Published	

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW (if applicable)

Committee	
Date Reviewed	


Vinn299 Wine Cafe
Chuck Celsi's Tavern
Des Moines Shoe Repair
2AU Limited
MoMere
Bungalow
Let Them Eat Cake
5th St
4th St
Maple St
Maple St
Maple St
Maple St
Barricades
Logoed Apparel
Langel & Woods Clothiers
Theatrical Shop
From Our Hands
Yarn Junction
Valley Junction Farmers Market
Rose's Theatrical Supplies
Quill & Nib
G Mig's 5th Street Pub
A Okay Antiques
Atomic Garage Valley Junction
Longest Yard
Barnboards & Salvage
Big Acai Bowl
Roslin's on Fifth
Boutique
Red Dot Design
athy's Mercantile
Alexander's Photo
CPR Cell Phone Repair West Des Moines
GA2 Vape Shop
Barricades
Lillians
Flash Apparel
Railroad Park Salon
Barricades
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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