

**Agenda Item Number** 

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Date \_\_\_\_\_\_ December 18, 2023\_\_\_\_\_

#### RECEIVE AND FILE COMMUNICATION FROM THE PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION REGARDING REQUEST FROM MERGE, LLC (OWNER), REPRESENTED BY BRENT DAHLSTROM (OFFICER) FOR PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY OF 1236 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET, FOR VACATION OF AIR RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THE 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY AND VACATION OF SUBSURFACE RIGHT-OF-WAY WITHIN THE CARPENTER AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY

**WHEREAS**, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised that at a public hearing held on December 7, 2023, its members voted 12-0 to recommend **APPROVAL** of a request from Merge, LLC (owner), represented by Brent Dahlstrom (officer), for property in the vicinity of 1236 24<sup>th</sup> Street, for vacation of approximately 95 square feet of air right-of-way within the 25th Street right-of-way, to allow the encroachment of a proposed building awning, and for vacation of approximately 16.5 square feet of subsurface right-of-way within the Carpenter Avenue right-of-way to allow the encroachment of proposed building footings, subject to the reservation of any necessary easements for any existing utilities until such time that they are abandoned or relocated at the applicant's expense.

**MOVED** by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to receive and file the attached communication from the Plan and Zoning Commission, and refer to the Engineering Department, Real Estate Division.

SECOND BY\_\_\_\_\_.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

<u>/s/ Chas M. Cahill</u> Chas M. Cahill Assistant City Attorney

(ROWV-2023-000018)

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COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT	CERTIFICATE					
COWNIE										
BOESEN					I, Laura Baumgartner, City Clerk of said City					
COLEMAN					hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Counci of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date among other proceedings the above was adopted.					
GATTO										
MANDELBAUM										
VOSS					IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my					
WESTERGAARD					hand and affixed my seal the day and year fin above written.					
TOTAL										
MOTION CARRIED			API	PROVED						
			1	Mayor	City Clerk					



December 12, 2023

Communication from the City Plan and Zoning Commission advising that at their December 7, 2023 meeting, the following action was taken regarding a request from Merge, LLC (owner), represented by Brent Dahlstrom (officer), for review and approval of the following regarding property located in the vicinity of 1236 24<sup>th</sup> Street:

A) Vacation of approximately 95 square feet of air right-of-way within the 25<sup>th</sup> Street right-of-way, to allow the encroachment of a proposed building awning.

B) Vacation of approximately 16.5 square feet of subsurface right-of-way within the Carpenter Avenue right-of-way to allow the encroachment of proposed building footings.

# **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

Commission Action:	Yes	Nays	Pass	Abstain	Absent
Francis Boggus	Х				
Leah Rudolphi	Х				
Abby Chungath	Х				
Kayla Berkson	Х				
Chris Draper	Х				
Laura Kessel				Х	
Todd Garner	Х				
Johnny Alcivar	Х				
Justyn Lewis	Х				
Carolyn Jenison	Х				
William Page	Х				
Andrew Lorentzen	Х				
Emily Webb					Х
Katie Gillette					Х
Rick Trower	Х				

After public hearing, the members voted 12-0-1 as follows.

**APPROVAL** of the requested vacation of segment of rights-of-way.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO THE P&Z COMMISSION

Staff recommends approval of the requested vacation of segment of rights-of-way.

# STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

# I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Purpose of Request: The applicant is proposing to construct two (2) new five-story mixed-use buildings, totaling 117,000 square feet with a mix of residential, office, retail, brewery, and restaurant uses. The proposed vacation of air rights within the 25<sup>th</sup> Street would allow three (3) sets of solar awnings (roughly 24 square feet each) to project into the right-of-way. Additionally, the proposed vacation of 16.5 square feet of subsurface rights within the Carpenter Avenue right-of-way would allow the encroachment of new building footings.
- 2. Size of Site: The requested area for vacation of air rights is approximately 95 square feet. The requested area for vacation of subsurface rights is approximately 16.5 square feet.
- 3. Existing Zoning (site): "MX2" Mixed-Use District.
- **4. Existing Land Use (site):** The subject areas proposed to be vacated are located within the 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Carpenter Avenue rights-of-way, respectively. The adjoining site is being proposed for a mixed-use project within the Drake Dogtown commercial node.
- 5. Adjacent Land Use and Zoning:

North – "P2", Uses are a building and surface parking lot owned by Drake University.

South – 'MX2, PUD"; Uses are a vacant commercial building and the Varsity theater.

**East** – "University Square Legacy PUD", Uses are multiple-household apartment building.

West – "P2"; Uses are Drake University campus buildings.

- 6. General Neighborhood/Area Land Uses: The subject site is located north of University Avenue within a block bounded by 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Carpenter Avenue, and 24<sup>th</sup> Street. The area is within the Drake Dogtown mixed use Neighborhood Node.
- 7. Applicable Recognized Neighborhood(s): The subject property is in the Drake Neighborhood. All neighborhood associations were notified of the public hearing by emailing of the Preliminary Agenda on November 17, 2023 and Final Agenda on December 1, 2023. Additionally, separate notifications of the hearing for this specific item were mailed on November 27, 2023 (10 days prior to the public hearing) to the primary titleholder on file with the Polk County Assessor for each property adjacent to the request right-of-way.

All agendas are mailed to the primary contact person designated to the City of Des Moines Neighborhood Services Department by the recognized neighborhood association. The Drake Neighborhood Association mailings were sent to Courtney Ackerson, 979 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50311.

- 8. Relevant Zoning History: On January 24, 2022, the City Council by Roll Call 22-0110, approved an amendment to the University Square Legacy Planned Unit Development to remove approximately 0.56 acres from the PUD District and to rezone the property from "PUD" to "MX2" Mixed Use District.
- **9. PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow Land Use Plan Designation:** Neighborhood Mixed Use within a Neighborhood Node.
- **10. Applicable Regulations:** Taking into consideration the criteria set forth in Chapter 18B of the lowa Code, the Commission reviews all proposals to vacate land dedicated for a specific public purpose, such as for streets and parks, to determine whether the land is still needed for such purpose or may be released (vacated) for other use. The recommendation of the Commission is forwarded to the City Council.

# II. ADDITIONAL APPLICABLE INFORMATION

- 1. Utilities: Existing utilities have been identified within the Carpenter Avenue and 25<sup>th</sup> Street rights-of-way. Easements must be reserved for any existing utilities until such time that they are abandoned or relocated at the applicant's expense.
- **2. Traffic/Access:** The requested vacation would not negatively impact access to private properties or traffic patterns.

#### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

<u>Abby Chungath</u> asked if any member of the public or commission desired to speak on the item. No one requested to speak.

#### **COMMISSION ACTION:**

<u>Carolyn Jenison</u> made a motion for approval of the requested vacation of segment of rights-of-way.

THE VOTE: 12-0-1

Respectfully submitted,

Jula Com

Jason Van Essen, AICP Planning & Urban Design Administrator

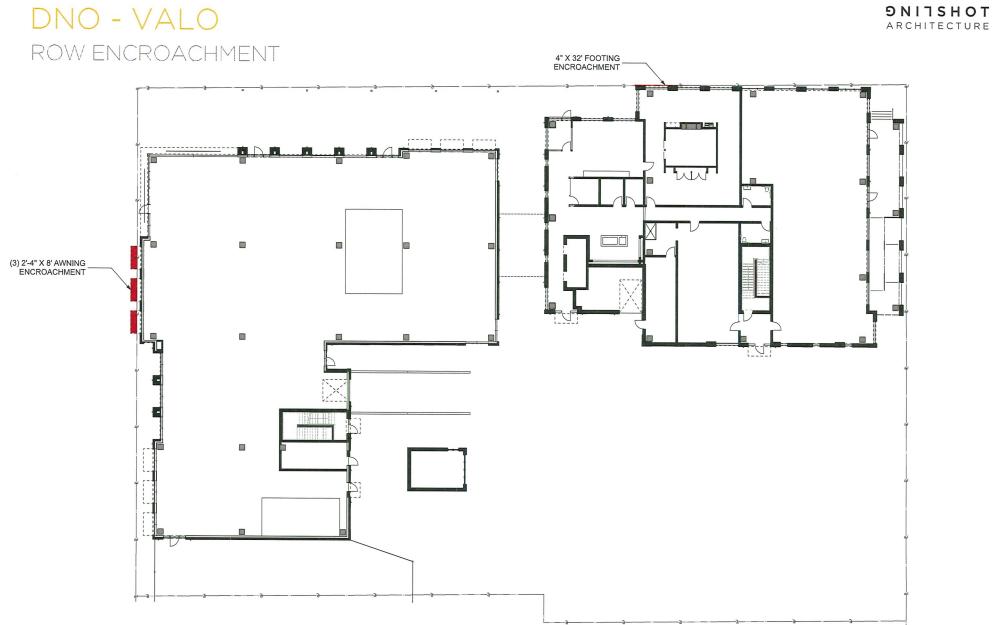
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Merge, LLC, vicinity of 1236 24th Street

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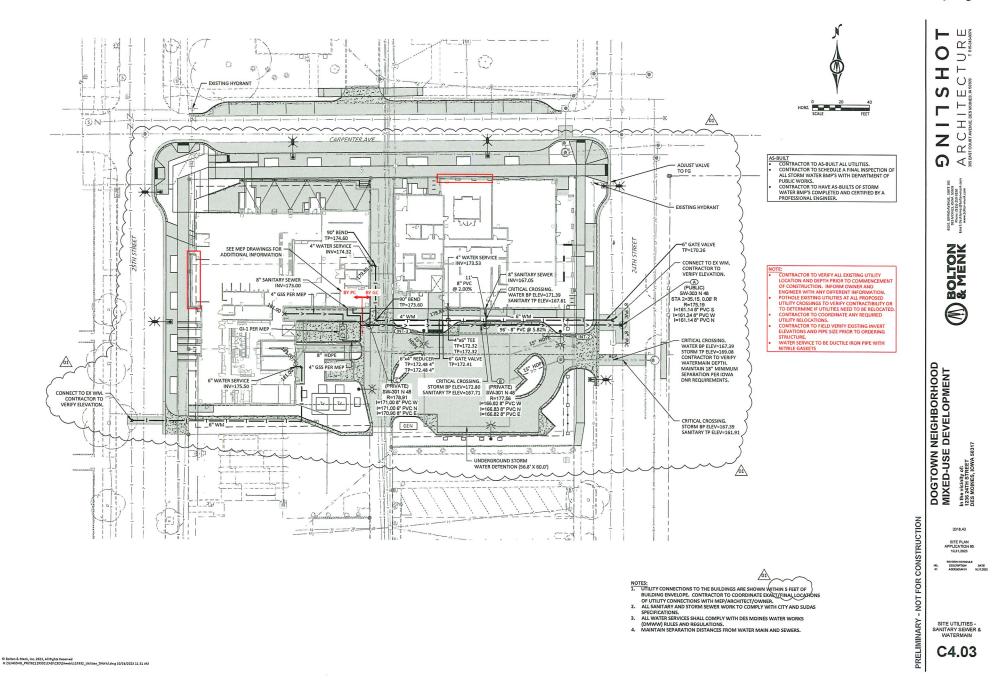
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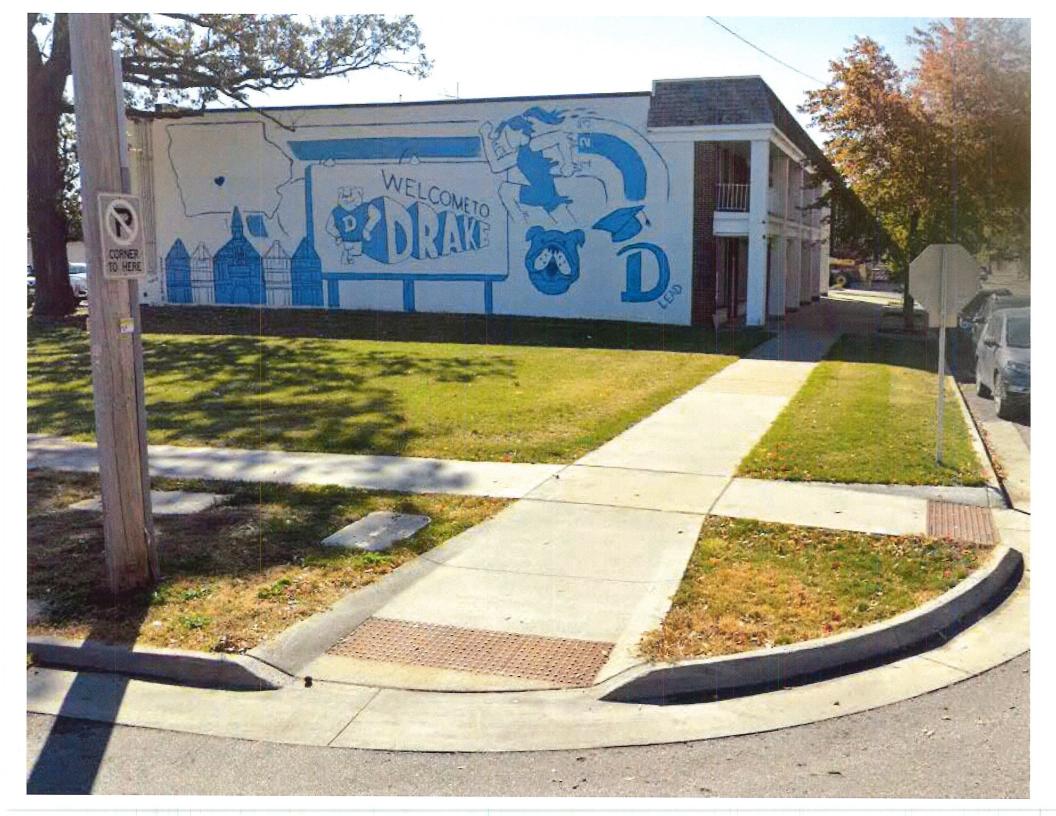


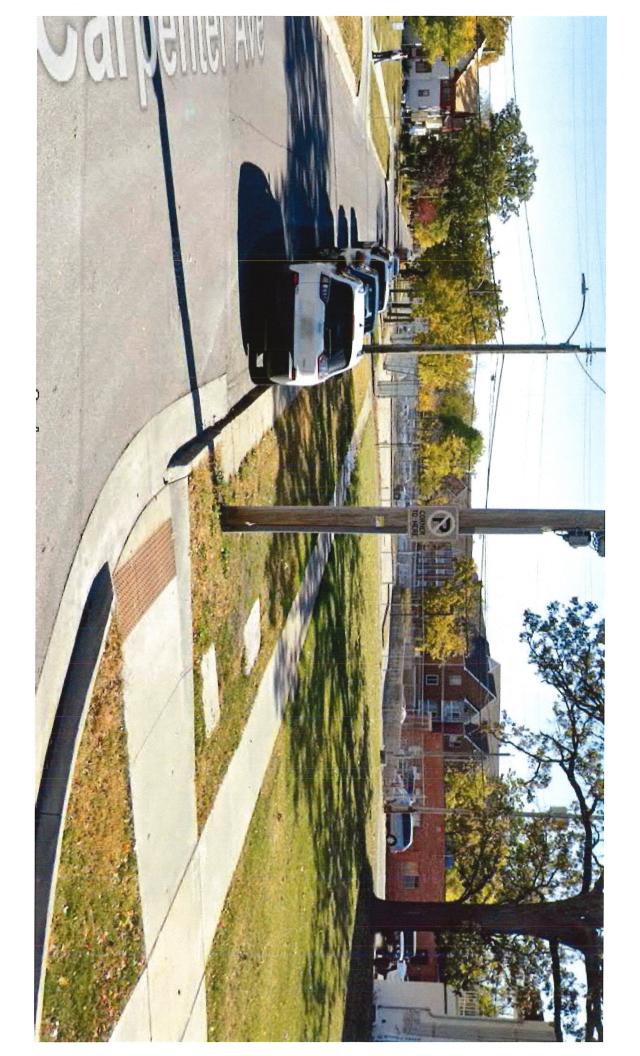


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# Merge, LLC, vicinity of 1236 24th Street

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