

OCHS Steve P

From: kstingle@efn.org
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 12:17 PM
To: OCHS Steve P
Subject: W Alley "vacation"

I got the neighbors' notification about CB Simons wanting to vacate the alley near my house.

I live at 354 W. 4th, and our property backs onto 4th alley, with a gate to the alley. I often use the alley in question, which is one block to the west of us. I strongly oppose taking this out of the public's use. I bicycle and walk for most of my transportation, and we have already lost several alleys downtown that I used to use, closed by adjoining businesses. They used the excuse that "bad stuff was happening there", but I consider this a red herring to allow them to put public property to their private use.

I don't know what reason CB Simons is using, but they would have to work hard to convince me. That alley is a good shortcut for me on both bicycle and foot, especially when the rain is coming from the south, as the building to the south provides shelter. But I argue that the bigger question is why we should allow private concerns to take away access on public property.

One more question: as I recall, they were already denied this vacation once before, perhaps by City Council? Is it a case of a manipulative kid who gets told "no" by Mom, then asking Dad, hoping for a different answer?

For me the answer is still NO. Alleys are important for many reasons and I don't think they should be given up to private concerns.

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