

Will you have to

CLIMB A FENCE to get your child to school?



The owner of the Executive Office building (also known as the tax building), Dan Spinnenweber, has again approached the Village to seek a variance to remove all the sidewalks on the east side of West. St. in order to build a 5 ft. high fence all the way around the parking lot on West and Madisonville Rds. His request was approved by Planning Commission in February. The decision can be reversed by Village Council – 5 of 6 Council members have to approve it. But time is short. (more on reverse!)

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL REP ASAP TO REGISTER YOUR VIEW!!



District 1

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(CONT'D FROM FRONT)

Mr. Spinnenweber's stated intentions include preventing Mariemont parents from parking there for school drop off/pick up and events. His comments from the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting indicate that he thinks they take up spaces that tenants and visitors of the strand and tax building need. The arguments against his proposal include:

1. It has been brought to Council's attention by residents and area developers over the past two years that Mr. Spinnenweber's plan goes against Mary Emery's original vision and the current rebirth of that vision to make and keep Mariemont a pedestrian-friendly, walking community.
2. While the parking lot is the property of the building owner, and it his right to do with it as he sees fit, the Village does not have to surrender the sidewalk to accommodate. What is the benefit to the Village to losing a public right of way? The lack of a sidewalk (in addition to being a safety concern) limits future uses and creates a liability concern. If someone is injured in that privately controlled public space, who is liable?
3. The variance allows the fence to be so far out, that there wouldn't be any room to even walk in the grass beside the fence.
4. There is no proof that ME parents are parking there for more than a brief period of time around 8:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Suggestions to chalk tires and ticket potential "all day" parkers have been ignored.
5. Last, but certainly not least, is that it will create a bigger safety issue than is already present. As one developer said during a Council meeting, based on his city planning research, "People take the path of least resistance." That means, parents and kids will STILL go into the lot if they cannot find a parking space at the school, and they will then have to walk outside of the fence, possibly in the street, to get to a crossing point for the school.

There is a bigger issue at hand – there simply isn't enough parking in the school and Parish Center lots during dropoff and pickup, or for bigger school events. The school has an agreement with the Village to allow parking in the school lot for patrons of Mr. Spinnenweber's establishments, so why isn't the offer reciprocal? Doesn't the Village Council have a responsibility to find a solution to the overall parking shortage in the Village for the benefit and promotion of business in the community and for safety?

PLEASE email all of the following Council members, or call and speak with them. They are here to listen to and represent the desires of their district residents.

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