



Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor Noon and Members of City Council

THROUGH: John Danielson, City Manager

FROM: Andrew Firestine, AICP, Deputy Director of Community Development

DATE OF MEETING: 11/4/2013

DATE OF SUBMITTAL: 10/25/2013

SUBJECT: Gating of Public Streets (Firestine)

1. Executive Summary:

This staff report provides an overview of existing gates within the City for areas served by public streets and a more specific overview of the approval process for the gate across the S. Helena Street right-of-way ("ROW"). While this gate has been reviewed, approved, and constructed, a recommendation is made to not support the gating of public streets and for staff to deny future requests for the gating of a public street.

2. Discussion:

There are two existing gates restricting access into neighborhoods served by public streets: Valley Country Club Estates and Valley Club Acres. The Valley Country Club Estates gate was approved by Arapahoe County and existing at the time of incorporation. The County, acting on behalf of the City, approved the Valley Club Acres gate at E. Caley Avenue and E. Fair Place in 2002. Today, there remain only two gates restricting access to these two neighborhoods.



The gate at S. Helena Street (at right) restricts access to the Valley Club Acres and the 19th Hole neighborhoods. The replacement of the existing gate for a gate at

S. Helena Street was discussed at City Council during the public hearing on the Celebrity Lanes development application in March 2010 and was subsequently reviewed through an engineering process. Letters were sent to all property owners within the Valley Club Acres and 19th Hole neighborhoods in October 2011 requesting input on their support of the proposed gate. Unanimous support for the gate was received from all residents within the affected neighborhoods. Emergency response providers, including the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, approved the gate design during the engineering process. Construction drawings for the gate were approved in October 2012.

The revocable license agreement for the S. Helena Street gate was executed and approval for the encroachment was granted in October 2012 upon finding that all of the engineering and emergency service requirements had been met and that the gate maintained a similar level of access to the neighborhood as the prior gate, located at E. Caley Avenue and E. Fair Place, which was removed as part of the 2012 agreement. The revocable license agreement includes provisions regarding the maintenance, repair, and operable condition of the gate. As with other revocable license agreements, it also indemnifies the City against injury, damage, or loss resulting from the gate.

While the gate across the S. Helena Street ROW was desired by the Valley Club Acres and 19th Hole neighborhoods and created separation between the adjacent commercial development and the established neighborhoods, it has the effect of restricting access to those public streets within the neighborhoods, but no greater than the previous gate.

3. Recommendations:

It is the recommendation of staff to not support the gating of public streets and for staff to deny future requests for the gating of a public street. Staff recommends that, pursuant to City Council Policy No. 2011-CCP-01, an Administrative Directive be prepared making a policy interpretation prohibiting the gating of public streets and maintaining access to those public streets within the City of Centennial.

4. Alternatives:

City Council may direct staff to conduct additional research for further discussion. City Council may also take no action at this time.

5. Fiscal Impact:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

6. Next Steps:

Pending direction from City Council, an Administrative Directive will be prepared.

7. Previous Actions:

None.

8. Suggested Motions:

No specific motion is proposed.