

To: David Wallace
From: Rev. William Au-Pastor-SS. Philip and James Catholic Church
Re: Charles Street Reconstruction
Date: June 17, 2004

Mr. Wallace,

I have been kept informed of the discussions on the Charles Street reconstruction by Betty Hill, who has represented our parish at the meetings. I am concerned with what I understand are some ideas favored by the City for below 29th street, namely the placement of a median strip, along with expanding the sidewalks, and having a left turn onto 29th street for the north bound lane. My concern is the impact on parking which is very important to us for our ability to conduct services, such as weddings and funerals, and for access by our parishioners.

Widening the sidewalks seems a good idea and can make a nice promenade for the area, but with the addition of a median strip, will the space for parking on both sides of the street be negatively impacted? Also, if you have a left turn lane onto 29th street, will this be from the left lane of the two projected north bound lanes, or will this mean the addition of a left turn lane? If a third left turn lane is added, will this not negatively impact parking? I will be at the meeting on the 24th at the BMA, and would like to understand the proposals better at that time. However, we would be very much opposed to any proposal that would negatively impact on parking in our block and the adjacent blocks below 29th street. Any such negative impact would not only impair our functioning but would also deprive the neighborhood, where parking is always an issue and at a premium. Please feel free to contact me (410-235-2294) prior to the meeting. I hope we can make sure that there is no problem or conflict on this issue. Thank you for your work and attention to our concerns.

Rev. William Au