



February 26th, 2011

Orange Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Councillor Dane Mahern
19th District City Councillor
241 City-County Building
200 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Councillor Mahern,

The residents of 500-800 Orange Street have time and again expressed dismay about the deplorable condition of our street and sidewalks. Last autumn, a group of neighbors in the 500-800 block of Orange Street applied for and received a Making Connections Indianapolis Study Circle Grant. Through our Study Circle sessions, we identified common concerns about our street and neighborhood and developed plans to make improvements. Study Circle discussions led to the formation of the Orange Street Block Club, which holds monthly meetings to discuss issues, like the condition of our street, and plan events like our April 30th, 2011 spring clean-up, which coincides with the city's "Great Indy Cleanup."

From the very first Study Circle meeting, and in our subsequent Block Club meetings, the crumbling infrastructure has been of utmost concern to us, not only because of the obvious safety hazards, but also because of the added difficulty of keeping the streets clean of weeds and dust and the hindrance the poor appearance of the road poses to attracting potential home-buyers. When going door to door passing out housewarming bags to Orange Street residents in January 2011, block club members again heard numerous concerns about the pothole-ridden street and deteriorating sidewalks.

While there are engaged and interested residents on this street who want to facilitate positive improvements, we cannot repave the street ourselves. Our hope is that you will support our campaign and advocate having our street and sidewalks repaved in whatever capacity possible. Please consider the following factors:

- The presence of active residents who have formed a Block Club dedicated to improving and maintaining our street, and have applied for and received funding to support our efforts (Making Connections Action Grant; KIB Adopt-a-Block supplies and support).
- The proximity of our street and neighborhood to Lilly Headquarters, Fountain Square, Garfield Park and downtown; our area has the potential for sustainable growth and improvement, with interested residents to support it—the city's investment in our infrastructure will not be wasted.

- A 2009 Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association survey of every street and sidewalk in the neighborhood, using the standards of the Department of Public Works, rated our street as one of the highest priorities for repaving and replacement of sidewalks. While this information and the recommendations were given to the city, our street has not yet been addressed for various reasons, one being that the section of Orange Street west of East Street, instead of the 500-800 block east of East Street, was repaved in 2010.
- Southeast Neighborhood Development Inc. has purchased property on the corner of East and Sanders Street and the corner of East and Orange Street, where the first phase of new development, the East Street Flats, is underway.
- In December 2010 correspondence with our Neighborhood Liaison, Lisa Laflin, Ms. Laflin indicated that in her conversation with DPW on our behalf, she learned our street has been entered in the inventory but has not been assigned a priority.

Following Ms. Laflin's advice, we are appealing to you, Mr. Mahern, as our elected City Councillor, to make repaving our street and replacement of the sidewalks for the 500-800 block of Orange Street a priority.

Attached you will find the signatures of Orange and Wright Street residents in support of this campaign, as well as pictures illustrating the deplorable condition of our street.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to ensure our street receives the attention of the City and the Department of Public Works.

Kindest Regards,

Orange Street Block Club

Councillor Mahern:

The undersigned residents of 500-800 Orange Street request your support in advocating for the repaving of our street and replacement of our sidewalks. Addressing the unsafe conditions and maintenance issues posed by our severely deteriorated street are priorities for us and we would appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you.

signature

printed name and street address
