

Abandonment of a Portion of Polk Street

for

7601 E Polk Street Scottsdale, AZ 85257 as recorded in deeds

(document numbers: 20220378775, 20220749383 & 20210112157)

APN: 131-15-001S, 001F, 001N & 001L

Prepared for:

Polk Devco, LLC (Property Owners of Record)

PREPARED BY:



October 18th, 2024

Overview & Background

On behalf of our client Polk Devco LLC, we respectfully request an abandonment of a portion of Polk Street for a new townhome development on the assemblage of vacant lots outlined in yellow below (located at 7601 E Polk Street Scottsdale, AZ 85257).

A pre-application meeting was held with staff at the City of Scottsdale to discuss the proposed abandonment and townhome development. Initial discussions were held with staff to discuss the proposed abandonment and townhome development. It was ultimately determined that the proposed abandonment could be pursued.



The Request

The proposed abandonment is of the portion of Polk Street extending from Miller Road on the west to its terminus +/- 270' to the east (shown in gold above).

This short segment of Polk Street is a dead-end that does not adequately serve the properties adjacent to it. As new development comes forward on the four vacant adjacent parcels, retaining Polk Street as a public street would be unnecessary and harmful to the project. (1) It would bring a public street into the middle of the proposed townhome community, restricting the residents' ability to prevent trespassing and security issues in the heart of the community. (2) Leaving it as a public street would require a large cul-de-sac to be installed on the eastern end of the development, which would consume a very high percentage of the developable area of this small infill project.

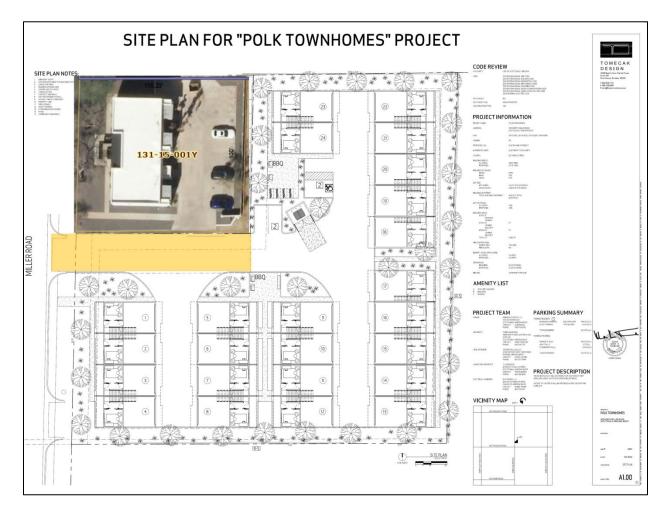
This area will greatly benefit from these four lots being converted from vacant, unmonitored, and trespassed lots to being the home of a beautiful and quality townhome community. This proposed abandonment is a critical component to making that new community happen because without it, too much land would be lost to an unnecessary public roadway.

Over time, this small public roadway has not been maintained by the City to the same degree as Miller Road (as the image below documents). That is likely due, at least in part, to this short segment of Polk Street not being a part of a significant street network and it never being able to serve a larger area. It cannot be extended to the east and can never become a major street. Removing this roadway from the public's maintenance responsibilities will be a positive for the City.



This proposal also benefits the City by facilitating development on the vacant parcels. The proposed townhome community will bring a beautiful development to vacant and unsecured lots that have experienced vagrancy and trespassing. It will provide quality housing to Scottsdale, which continues to be in need of housing supply.

The abandonment will affect only one other property, which is located on the northwest portion of the abandonment area (APN 131-15-001V) (shown in the aerial below). This is a small multi-family residential building with a few units. To ensure this neighboring property continues to have permanent, legal access, we have agreed with Staff to enter into an easement agreement with this owner to provide it with a permanent legal access easement over an area within our proposed future driveway (shown in gold below). We have already met with the owner about this proposed abandonment and easement solution, and they are in agreement with the concept. After the City has completed its first review of the easement agreement language, and after we have addressed any textual changes requested, we will send the draft easement agreement to that owner for their review and approval.



Staff has asked that we arrange for a deed restriction to be placed on the neighboring parcel to prevent it from obtaining a curb cut and direct access onto Miller Road in the future. Due to the City's standards for driveway spacing, the

City wishes to guarantee that the neighbor's multifamily development and the proposed townhome development both use the abandonment area as their exclusive access point. We are in agreement with this restriction. However, this cannot be done in the easement agreement because control of the restriction needs to be held by the City and the City is not a party to the private easement agreement.

Instead, we have drafted this restriction into a separate document—a non-vehicular access easement running to the benefit of the City. This non-vehicular access easement will be located on the neighbor's western property line (see image below).



As the grantee of the negative easement, the City will hold this easement right on behalf of the public and will forever have the right to deny *any* vehicular access over the neighbor's west property line. This legal restriction will run with the property in perpetuity, will always appear on title reports, and will eloquently accomplish the City's objective.

Utility Companies

In accordance with proper due diligence, utility companies were contacted to identify the presence of any existing utilities within the proposed abandonment area. We have heard back from all known utilities in the area and have found that Southwest Gas has a line that runs within the proposed abandonment that

serves properties further downstream to the east. They have requested that either a specific easement is created for their line or that a reservation of franchise rights to utilities be included as part of the abandonment.

A letter from each of the utilities was requested in support of the proposed abandonment, those letters have been included with this submittal.

Outreach

Citizen involvement occurred early in the process before formally submitting an application with the City. Citizens were involved in the process with the mailing of a first-class letter, which was directed at property owners within 750 feet of the proposed abandonment, neighborhood associations, interested parties, and the city project coordinator. This letter satisfied the requirement to complete neighborhood notification.

We had follow-up communications with four residents who contacted our firm in response to the letter. Each of the residents asked about the development that would be adjacent to the abandonment. None of them asked about or objected to the actual abandonment request.

Conclusion

The proposed abandonment will benefit the City by removing a small portion of under-maintained roadway that serves only a few properties and is not necessary. It will further benefit the City by converting the adjacent vacant and trespassed lots into a beautiful development that provides necessary and quality housing for the City. It will benefit the adjacent neighbor because it will help provide greater security on this roadway and ensure greater maintenance occurs in the future. Finally, it will benefit our development because it eliminates a publicly accessible area in the heart of the project and prevents the consumption of large portion of the site for an unnecessary cul-de-sac.

SITE PLAN FOR "POLK TOWNHOMES" PROJECT

