

# CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – BUREAU OF ENGINEERING INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Tracy Samuelson, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning

**FROM:** Amy Rohrbach, Project Engineer

**RE:** Sidewalk Deferral Request – 708-742 Jennings Street

**DATE:** December 22, 2020

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The owner of 708 and 742 Jennings Street is proposing to consolidate the two lots and construct an addition to the existing auto body shop. We have received a request for deferral of sidewalk along the property frontages of Jennings St and Win Dr. from the applicant's engineer, HOP-PES Professional Engineering & Surveying, dated November 23, 2020. The applicant is requesting a deferral of sidewalk until such time that the City deems necessary.

The combined lots will have approximately 790 feet of frontage along Jennings Street and Win Drive. Neither frontage has sidewalk existing. The immediate area of Jennings St between Pembroke Rd and E Market St is lacking sidewalk. Win Dr, between Jennings St and Pembroke Rd is also void of sidewalk. The area on the west side of Jennings is mostly residential and just north of the project site is the Bethlehem Housing Authority Pembroke Village community which are pedestrian generators. Win Drive is an industrial park, much like the LVIP parks, which generate pedestrian traffic as many employees walk over lunch breaks or may take the bus to work and need to walk from the nearest bus stop. At LVIP's original park, LVIP I, sidewalk was not installed at the time of original construction but the City has actively been working with developers as development occurs and requiring sidewalk to be installed to make the area more walkable.

The applicant is requesting a deferral be granted for the sidewalk until there is a definite need to have them installed. They site that "there is literally no pedestrian traffic." The perceived lack of pedestrian traffic is due to the fact that there are no sidewalks existing, not because there is a lack of need. If we granted deferrals for all sidewalk in areas where sidewalk doesn't exist, we'd never have sidewalk. Bethlehem is striving to be a walkable City and has been actively involved in the LVPC Walk/Roll Plan. The first step in achieving this goal is the installation of sidewalk.

In view of the above information, the Department of Public Works does not support a deferral of sidewalk at this property.

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Route to: M. Alkhal → M. Dorner → File