



# KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

April 29, 2021

Dear Neighbor,

## 2021 BOARD

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I'm following up with you regarding a letter you recently received from Varnum Law on Kent County's behalf regarding vacating the southern end of Marion Avenue. The legal process to vacate a street in Grand Rapids requires that all property owners within 300 feet of this section of street are named as parties in a lawsuit.

I'd like to assure you that your property rights and access will not be impacted by this legal process. There is nothing you need to do to enable the process to continue. The Varnum Law letter included a form for you to complete if you choose to. This form allows Varnum Law to confirm that you find this process acceptable and so you can avoid any further participation in the lawsuit. If you don't want to complete the form, there is no obligation to do so and your property rights and access will not be impacted either way. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please let me know.

The legal process to vacate the southern 160 feet of Marion Avenue is expected to take four to six months in total. Demolition of the existing structures on Kent County's property has already begun and construction is expected to be completed this fall. The building will be used for Kent County DPW staff offices and our SafeChem program.

Our goal is to have the construction and ongoing operation of the building have little to no negative impact on the neighborhood. In fact, we hope to be a positive addition to the neighborhood by establishing a reuse shop for you to pick up free home and garden products to use at your own home that other community members no longer need. At any point in the construction phase or after staff move into the building this fall, don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of the people listed below if you have any questions or concerns:

- **Construction process & day-to-day operation of the building:** Kristen Wieland, Kent County Department of Public Works, 616-632-7923, [kristen.wieland@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:kristen.wieland@kentcountymi.gov)
- **Marion Avenue Street Vacation:** Brion Doyle, Varnum Law, 616-336-6479, [bbdoyle@varnumlaw.com](mailto:bbdoyle@varnumlaw.com) (on behalf of Kent County DPW)
- **General neighborhood issues & impacts:** Monica Hall, John Ball Area Neighbors, 616-456-9190, [info@swangr.org](mailto:info@swangr.org)

Sincerely,

Darwin J. Baas, Director  
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616-632-7919



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