

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2015-062

*Public Input on Closing and Transfer of portion of Greene Street between Pickens Street
and Sumter Street to the University of South Carolina*

ORIGINAL
STAMPED IN RED

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution R-2014-053 enacted by the Mayor and City Council on June 10, 2014, the City adopted a procedure to receive public input on any action which the City is a party to regarding the permanent closure of a public street; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council were presented with a request at the June 2, 2015 Work Session by the University of South Carolina to permanently close the portion of Greene Street between Pickens Street and Sumter Street to vehicular traffic, a copy of their request dated May 21, 2015 is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and,

WHEREAS, the University of South Carolina received the support from the University Hill Neighborhood Executive Council to close the portion of Greene Street between Pickens Street and Sumter Street to vehicular traffic, a copy of their approval is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 21st day of July, 2015, that pursuant to R-2014-053, the City desires to receive public input regarding the request of the University of South Carolina's to permanently close the portion of Greene Street between Pickens Street and Sumter Street to vehicular traffic; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to negotiate the terms of the transfer, to include restrictions as to the use, construction and access to the portion of Greene Street between Pickens Street and Sumter Street.

Requested by:

City Manager _____



Mayor

Approved by:



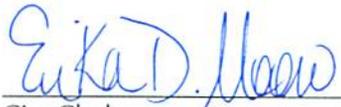
City Manager

Approved as to form:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Introduced: 7/21/2015

Final Reading: 7/21/2015



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Administration and Finance

May 21, 2015

Senior Vice President for Administration &
Chief Operating Officer

Teresa Wilson
City Manager
City of Columbia

RE: Greene Street Closure from Sumter Street to Pickens Street

Dear Ms. Wilson,

The University of South Carolina respectfully requests the City's permission to allow the recently gated portion of Greene Street between Sumter and Pickens Streets to be closed to normal vehicular traffic at all times. An enormous amount of internal consideration and study has informed the decision to make this formal request.

The enrollment growth at USC has been extraordinary in the last several years and the quantity of pedestrians crossing Greene Street in the midst of through traffic has attained an intensity which causes significant concern. In 2014, USC was implementing numerous renovations to buildings which bordered this portion of Greene Street. Pedestrian and vehicular counts, (Attachment A), were commissioned which confirmed that thousands of pedestrians, mostly students, were crossing the streets and often interacting precariously with vehicles throughout the course of a day. Consequently, work was also planned and undertaken to increase pedestrian safety and enhance the bike experience along these two blocks of Greene Street and one block of Bull Street. There was significant collaboration with numerous City staff, for which we are sincerely grateful, as we sought to support one another's efforts for making Columbia and USC more walkable and bike-friendly. The signature elements in this plan were new masonry and wrought iron gates situated closer to Pickens and Sumter Streets. These new gates expanded the zone which had been closed to daily vehicular traffic since the 1970s when the University population of students, faculty and staff was a fraction of the current reality. During the planning it was our stated intention to operate the new gates consistent with the pre-existing agreement of daily closure from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the weekdays and openness in the evenings and weekends. Vehicles were prevented from using Greene Street during the lengthy street renovation and as construction progressed it became apparent that vehicles were adjusting by finding alternate east and west routes on Blossom, Pendleton and Gervais Streets. Meanwhile it

was observed that the closed street was having a profound effect on pedestrian safety at all times of the day and evening. Another round of pedestrian counts, (Attachment B), was commissioned which confirmed that enormous numbers of students were crossing Greene Street before and after the hours of previous gate closure which reflects the fact that classes now begin earlier and extend later. The data and the extensive observation of the increased safety resulting from the closed street compelled us to contemplate 24/7 closure of the gates.

University leadership representing Student Affairs, Campus Police, Transportation, Housing and Facilities ultimately concluded that 24/7 closure should be an institutional objective. Notably, the Student Government also debated this issue and ultimately voted officially to endorse the 24/7 closure.

These same University representatives met with the University Hill Neighborhood Executive Council on April 1, 2015, and expressed our desire to close this portion of Greene Street. In addition to pedestrian safety, it was noted that closing the roadway would decrease vehicular traffic through the neighborhood, reduce "cruising" by the heavily populated Student Union plazas and reduce the possibility of drive-by robbery inflicted upon pedestrians. Subsequently, the University Hill Neighborhood Executive Council endorsed the initiative.

The new gates can be quickly unlocked and opened for emergency vehicle access similar to past procedures. A Knox box containing a padlock key has been installed on the gate columns as an additional precaution.

In conclusion, it is our hope that City leadership will consider and ultimately permit the University to maintain the gates in a 24/7 closed position. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

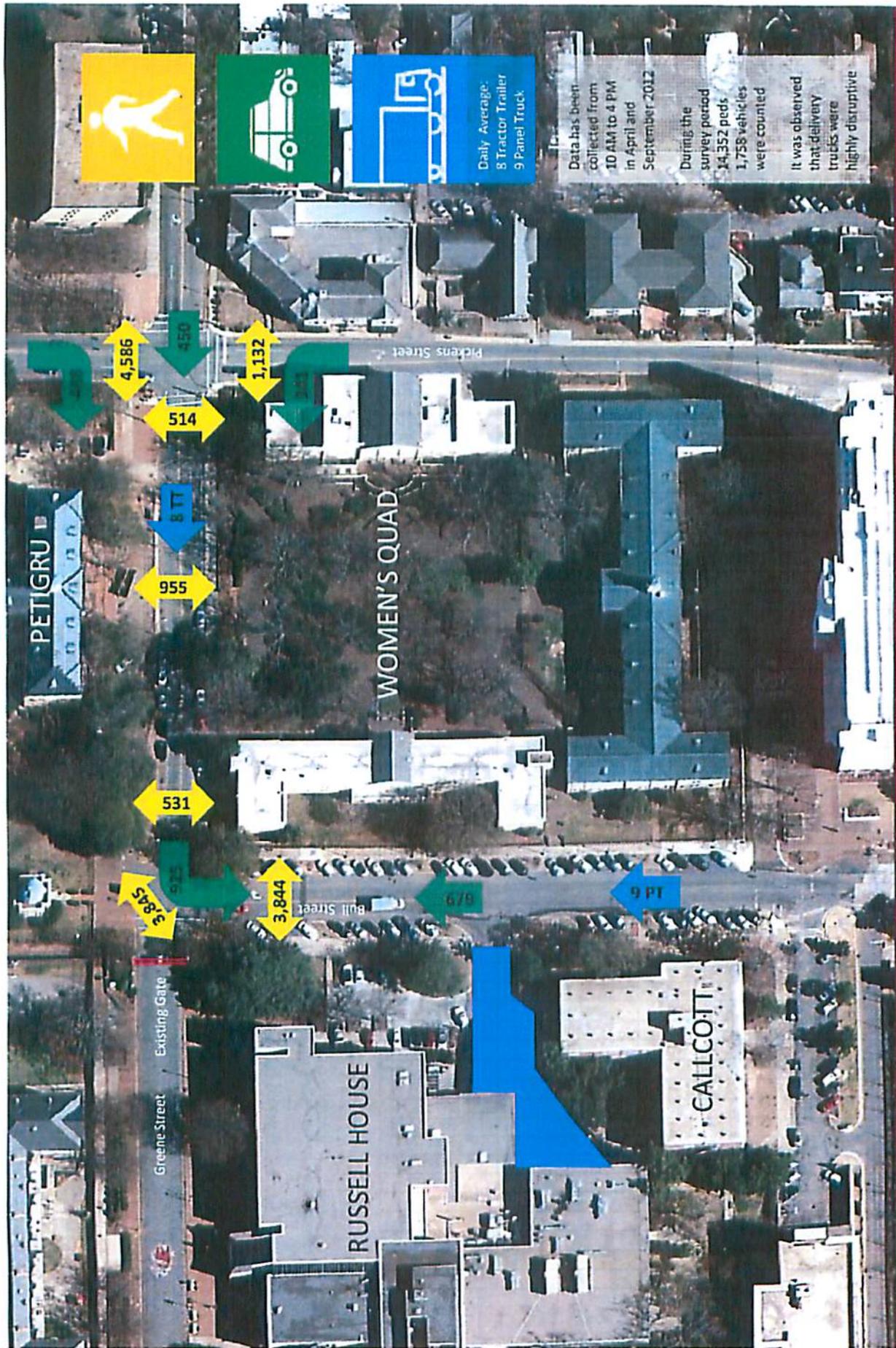
Sincerely,



Ed Walton

Senior Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer
University of South Carolina

Cc: Derek Gruner
Derrick Huggins
Chris Wuchenich
Shirley Mills
Jerry Brewer



Daily Count 10 am — 4pm on September 11, 2012

Student and Vehicle Surveys



Attachment B

TUESDAY - MARCH 17, 2015				
Start Time	Camera #1 Pedestrian Crossings	Camera #2 Pedestrian Crossings	Camera #3 Pedestrian Crossings	Total Pedestrian Crossings
7:00	2	1	2	5
7:15	1	1	3	5
7:30	9	3	6	18
7:45	16	18	28	62
8:00	51	93	94	238
8:15	184	255	160	599
8:30	70	36	43	149
8:45	27	22	39	88
9:00	27	12	48	87
9:15	87	35	38	160
Total	474	476	461	1,411
9:30	185	193	181	559
9:45	373	418	351	1,142
10:00	77	123	113	313
10:15	41	42	45	128
10:30	24	37	67	128
10:45	96	39	58	193
11:00	168	156	150	474
11:15	447	476	339	1,262
11:30	177	234	232	643
11:45	42	53	97	192
12:00	46	32	133	211
12:15	124	65	120	309
12:30	177	134	138	449
12:45	396	358	345	1,099
13:00	260	539	454	1,253
13:15	51	147	110	308
13:30	39	57	95	191
13:45	46	50	89	185
14:00	135	87	114	336
14:15	192	222	180	594
14:30	559	475	260	1,294
14:45	111	192	119	422
15:00	40	78	72	190
15:15	25	31	53	109
15:30	53	70	67	190
15:45	64	105	82	251
16:00	408	333	244	985
Total	4,356	4,746	4,308	13,410
16:15	104	176	140	420
16:30	53	53	66	172
16:45	70	54	33	157
17:00	46	40	47	133
17:15	114	64	46	224
17:30	171	153	108	432
17:45	181	279	190	650
18:00	41	62	68	171
18:15	14	50	69	133
18:30	19	39	94	152
18:45	62	69	80	211
19:00	102	63	70	235
19:15	141	115	88	344
19:30	33	57	97	187
19:45	47	83	102	232
Total	1,198	1,357	1,298	3,853
TOTAL	10,858	11,801	10,836	33,495

**UNIVERSITY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

May 29, 2015

Re: Permanent Closing of Greene Street

Dear Shirley,

Please convey to the City Council of Columbia, South Carolina, that the University Hill Neighborhood Association, through its Executive Council, supports the request of the University of South Carolina to close permanently that portion of Greene Street from Sumter Street to Pickens Street.

As you know, the University Hill Executive Council met with representatives of the University of South Carolina on April 1, at the Inn at USC, to consider the University's request, based on pedestrian use and campus integrity, to close the relevant section of the street. This section has been largely closed during the day for construction reasons, among others. This closing may be advantageous to the neighborhood itself, as it would tend to divert through traffic from the neighborhood.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Gottshall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas R. Gottshall, President
University Hill Neighborhood Executive Council

1824 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803 540-7845