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City Council
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Re: Keeping an important part of a city street open to the public

Gentlemen:

On rather short notice has come the issue of a church or churches wanting to close a city street in order to facilitate their parking. Our city street of Warner between Union and Main has been closed for a rather long time. The MATA director informed me that the street was temporarily closed in order to get people accustomed to going one street further to Oak street in order to get onto Main from Union. It turns out that the MATA director was asked by the church about a year and a half ago to see about closing the street. Even though the street is barricaded off, it is obvious from parked vehicles inside the closed off area that the church has already incorporated the street.

The study recently made for downtown Jonesboro indicated that streets would better serve the advancement of the downtown if they were again made two way. What potential will the city have with this street that we are talking about if it is even given away?

Those of us who have regularly used the subject portion of Warner have waited patiently and have expected the truth from our elected leaders. At the last council meeting the Mayor told me before witnesses that he did not even know where the subject street section was, and that it was only an alley anyway. In fact it is a very important connector street for local traffic and is located about halfway between where the Mayor lives and where he goes to work each day.

This morning, in conversation with a policeman, we were thinking of the greater difficulty of just getting around the block in our/my downtown neighborhood. The idea is that we have been advised to promote this neighborhood activity rather than to make it more difficult.

I just strongly believe that the city should leave Warner St. between Main and Union open. It would be nice if the churches would supervise the closing of this street section for services on Sunday during daylight hours only. This would be a convenience for the churches and would not be a hindrance to business and daily human activity.