



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: October 14, 2024

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Agenda Item: 114 Walnut Street Fire Escape Update

Explanation: Work continues on the construction of the Tangled Roots brewpub at 140 Washington Square. A non-conforming fire escape was removed several months ago from the neighboring 114 Walnut Street building to accommodate the brewpub construction. A temporary wood fire escape was constructed leading from the second-floor door to the ground floor. A permanent fire escape is planned.

The 2018 International Residential Code and the 2018 International Building Code often have some room for interpretation among design professionals and code experts and that has caused some conflicting views from both property owners on what satisfies the adherence to the codes for purposes of constructing the permanent fire escape at 114 Walnut Street. Ameren placed new gas meters on the rear façade of 114 Walnut Street near the landing of the temporary fire escape several months ago. Staff have asked whether it would be feasible for those to be moved closer to the west end of the rear façade of 114 Walnut Street, which would potentially offer another option and more flexibility for the construction of a permanent fire escape. Ameren has indicated that the gas meters cannot be moved there due to the close proximity of the electrical meters. Staff continues to urge the two parties to come to an agreement in the near future on a code-compliant means of egress.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Action Requested: None. This is provided as general background information on the eventual construction of a permanent fire escape for the 114 Walnut Street building.