

**From:** [Johnson, Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** 17-1298-GA-CSS  
**Date:** Thursday, August 10, 2017 8:40:47 AM

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## 17-1298-GA-CSS

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**From:** john fornal [mailto:johnfornal@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 9, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Thomas <Thomas.Johnson@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** I Want Action Taken In German Village

Dear, Commissioner Johnson, German Village Historic District is facing our biggest threat since 1960. I am writing to you as a constituent and concerned Ohio citizen requesting that: 1) You rule in favor of a temporary injunction to stop Columbia Gas from shutting off utility service until the complaint against relocation of interior gas meters has been settled. 2) You set the procedural schedule for our pending complaint 3) You grant the temporary injunction to halt the relocation of gas meters from interior to exterior until our complaint has been resolved Will you please help us protect our residents from undue potential harm and preserve the integrity of the district by taking action?

Thank you for the temporary injunction to stop Columbia Gas from shutting off service. I am also make some additional notes on why you should halt the relocation of the gas meters:

1. I am a resident of GV for 25 years and the charm of the brick narrow streets and sidewalks lend themselves to enjoying a walk friendly environment. The narrow walks are being made even narrower as outside meters encroach onto valuable sidewalks.
2. The pride the neighborhood takes in maintaining a historic area is eroded by outside meters that have become more prominent than the architectural details of the home and area.
3. Many houses do not have much space in between each other and placing outside meters in narrow walkways increases the complexity of moving large items through the walkways. It will make moving both into and out of houses even more complicated and hazardous with the narrower paths.
4. The danger of placing these gas meters outside opens up the threat of vandalism and possible explosions. This is emphasized when a meter is placed close to main thoroughfares. Columbia Gas does see the potential of increased hazards when they have to place concrete

polls around the meter to protect from possible vehicular damage and hazards.

5. The unsightly meters detract from the overall values of the home as they rob the home of their quaint and historic nature.

6. There is a Commission that has been established by the City to oversee outside alterations to historic areas and this helps to maintain the value and charm of these areas. Columbia Gas did not have to go before the Commission to get any outside alterations approved. Columbia Gas also did not have to meet city codes when pulling up sidewalks as they should have been required to place handicap accessible ramps. An individual that replaces their sidewalk and the corner does not have a ramp they are required to have that in their plans. Why residents are held to this standard but

Columbia Gas was not?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter:

John Fornal  
563 City Park Ave

Columbus, Ohio 43215

**From:** [Lisa Stein](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** RE German Village Formal Complaint : 17-1298-GA-CSS  
**Date:** Sunday, August 13, 2017 7:38:00 PM

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Dear Ohio Public Utility Commissioners,

I am writing in reference to Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS as a concerned citizen and fan of the German Village Historic District, a nationally recognized historic district in Columbus. Thank you for scheduling a settlement conference between the German Village Society and Columbia Gas of Ohio. I also would like to thank you for protecting those who are refusing to allow Columbia Gas to relocate their meters to the exterior of buildings from service shut off during the pendency of this complaint.

Our position remains the same: we do not want natural gas meters removed from basements and placed on exterior facades in the district. It is our understanding that Federal statistical data reveals that approximately 90% of reportable incidents involving gas meters from 2010 to 2017, involved gas meters on the EXTERIOR of buildings. This is terrifying. In addition, meters on the exterior of buildings in the district are a violation of the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation, standards established for the preservation and maintenance of properties and districts, such as German Village.

Please take immediate action in this case to stop Columbia Gas from relocating meters to building exteriors during the pendency of this complaint. We believe exterior meters in urban environments pose an intolerable safety risk in addition to violating preservation standards.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Stein

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**8/14/2017 9:10:44 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 17-1298-GA-CSS**

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing