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"Group Keeping Alive X-Way Route Issue"

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Psc 1-9-68

11175-Street-Xway

Group Keeping Alive

X-Way Route Issue

PSC - 1-9-68

Waldo Zimmermann, co-chairman of the expressway committee of the Mid-Town Civic Club, a 100-member organization, today sought to reopen the question of whether to allow the proposed east-west leg of the expressway to go through Overton Park.

Zimmermann, a retired advertising executive who ran unsuccessfully for the City Council from District 5, based his platform on the pledge that his energies would be channeled toward rerouting the expressway out of Overton Park.

He sent a letter to 13 City Council members and Mayor Loeb asking that the body "give us (the Club) 30 minutes at an early meeting of the Council to make an orderly presentation of our case."

COPIES SENT

Carbon copies of the petition were also sent to Gov. Ellington, Rep. Dan Kuykendall, State Highway Commissioner Charles Speight, Allan S. Boyd, federal secretary of transportation, and Lowell K. Bridwell, federal administrator of public roads.

Controversy has raged over the expressway's route through the park since the park route was announced. Several months ago state highway officials announced

that the park route was final. However, Rep. Kuykendall has invited Birdwell to Memphis to study the route.

ESTIMATE

Zimmermann said in the letter that another route for the expressway, which he defines as going north of Overton Park and running behind Southwestern, would cost "between six and seven million dollars less than the Overton Park route."

Claiming that "a chance to be heard before the Council" will be the only way of "restoring the democratic process here in Memphis," Zimmermann said "it is just possible that you (the Council and Mayor Loeb) might save your city and your state from an embarrassing scandal by giving the opponents of the Overton Park fiasco something they have never had before — a fair, impartial hearing."

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