

THE SPOT-ZONING QUESTION

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Apparently to obviate the submission to the voters of an initiative ordinance abolishing "spot zones," or rather preventing the further creation of them, the City Council has adopted the proposed ordinance. This, it will be noted, retains in the Council control over the zoning ordinance, since it will be able to amend the ordinance by abolishing the abolition. If the initiative had gone through and been adopted the Council's hands would be tied.

It is to be feared this action has been taken less through any recognition on the part of Councilmen of the general wrong-headedness of spot zoning in all but very exceptional cases, than because of a feeling that Council might want to do some more spot zoning. Of course, if the Council does try to restore the zoning ordinance to its pristine condition the opponents of spot zoning can file a referendum against the amendment, but that means more trouble and expense.

If adoption of this amendment was a plain announcement of a new policy which would be adhered to, it would receive general approbation.
