

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PARKING
(in the vicinity of high schools)**

**July 10, 2007
Aldermen Duval,
Thibault, DeVries**

**8:00 AM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Chairman Duval called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Duval, Thibault, DeVries

Messrs: B. Stanley, Lt. Hopkins, J. Hoben, D. Scannell

Chairman Duval advises that the purpose of the meeting will be organizational and planning in nature.

Chairman Duval stated I appreciate my colleagues' support and the support of Chairman of the Board Mike Lopez for agreeing to create this committee in an attempt to begin to address the parking conditions that have existed for countless years around the three city high schools. This came about as a result of continued complaints from Ward 4 residents who put up with a number of challenges because of the congestion that exists around Central High School. And in speaking with Jim Hoben since I was elected just a year and half ago and a new parking manager Brandy Stanley and other Aldermen on the Board, it was apparent that there is no real quick fix, in that really it was high time we took a more global view of how we might be able to begin to address some of the challenges that these residents have who reside around the high schools, both land owners and tenants. We tried some fixes in the Central High area with some minimal amount of success. It's not easy, and in my view I think what's happened is over the years, the congestion has probably worsened because of the number of students that bring vehicles to school. I'm sure back in the day when Alderman Thibault was in high school there wasn't the congestion that we have today, and when Alderman DeVries and I were in school there probably was a little bit more than when Alderman Thibault was in school. And certainly since I graduated in 1970 from West High School, it has become exaggerated. The conditions have really impacted negatively on the areas around each high school. I think it's surely something we have an obligation to response to and to address as best we can. I know there is no magic wand to fix this problem, but I would certainly like to start

off this morning by sort of addressing this problem in a cooperative and collaborative manner by relying on people who can maybe give us some ideas of what we might do to at least begin to address it. I think it's incumbent upon us to do so in view of the conditions that these residents put up with. From my own personal viewpoint, not speaking for Alderman DeVries or Alderman Thibault, but at least for me, the City streets are the City's obligations. And while it's easy to sort of point the finger at the city high school principals to address the conditions, I don't think it's fair and I don't think that is where the responsibility lies. School principals have enough to manage their own high schools when the students are on their grounds. I think when it comes to parking conditions on our City streets I think that responsibility rests solely with this Board here to try to address and work through with a very professional parking manager that we are grateful to have on board at this time. Furthermore, the conditions that exist around the high schools, in particularly Central, require constant Police Department interaction. I think it's an absolute drain on resources. We have constant calls made by residents to the City Police Department to issue citations and enforce parking ordinances and again I think it is a drain on resources when Police Officers can be off doing something other than just writing tickets and responding to parking conditions around high schools. So for those reasons it certainly is a City obligation to respond and to try to manage the parking conditions as best we can. I have no preconceived notions as to what we might end up with. I have not endorsed or suggested to any person on this Committee or in this audience today what we might do, so I really don't have any immediate solutions. I think it would be inappropriate to do so this morning without first seeking input. So this morning I think is truly just to start off and try to maybe to set up a timetable for which we can start addressing the conditions and at some point I envision involving other departments, certainly the School District. I think it's important that we have constant open communication with them. I appreciate Mr. Scannell for being here this morning and I look forward to working with him and seeking his input as to what we might do to address these conditions. And, again I think the thing is a slow, meaningful, steady pace, looking to accomplish our immediate objectives, without causing a fury over this issue. It's politically sensitive as you can well imagine. Parents have already expressed something just short of outrage with regard to supposed changes, I don't know where they came from, that perhaps were reported prematurely in the newspapers, but for any of those watching us this morning I think that the solutions will come and it will be after long and serious deliberation. And I appreciate...is it Lieutenant Hopkins? Lieutenant Hopkins for being here this morning from the Police Department. Jim Hoben is here from Traffic and Brandy Stanley from Parking. So I think with input from these professionals and others along the way I think we will come up with some solutions. Before we start I would like to get input, if you don't mind, from Alderman DeVries and Alderman Thibault. It was not by chance that the Chairman of the Board selected these three Aldermen. We each have high schools

in our Districts and receive the complaints from residents with regard to parking conditions in and around high schools. Alderman Thibault I don't know if you have any comments to start off this morning.

Alderman Thibault stated first thing I would like to say is that especially around West High School where you have an awful lot of twenty-five foot streets, there is only one side parking on each street that is over there and that is for safety because the Fire Department can't even get through some of these streets when there is a car parked there in the winter time. Because of the winter back up on the side of street plus a car parked there, some the fire trucks cannot get through some of these streets. But to tell you the truth I do not have any problem at all with parking in my area. The people that park there and the people that live there, they knew that the school was there before they bought those houses. And that is my defense all the time. I tell them, look you knew the school was there when you bought the house, and you saw the signs that were in front of your house; they were there. It's not something I'm going to take care of and do today. I just try to make sure as much as I can with Jim Hoben, to try to clear the corners as much as I can and keep them clear so that the cars can...the traffic can move. Frankly, other than that, I have absolutely no parking problems. That is my comment.

Alderman DeVries stated thank you Mr. Chairman. I think the atmosphere at Memorial High School is probably a little bit different than at the other two high schools because they have considerable on-sight parking for the students. They have about four hundred parking spaces available for the students. Believe it or not even with four hundred parking spaces, and we built close to two hundred new spaces just two years ago thinking we would then capture all the student parking and be able to bring them on site. Even with all those available spaces I probably have more complaints today from the residential neighborhood surrounding the high school than I did six years ago when I first started as Alderman. I think there is a culture within the student body of empowerment to, or that they are required to have a car that they are bringing to school. And, more and more of the student body is driving to school versus taking public transportation, school buses, or coming with their parents. So we have many more students trying to park today than we had in the past. Unfortunately, with the expenditures the new parking lot which was built, not for the student body but for the athletic field, that is available during the day to the student body, we just haven't made any progress. The surrounding neighborhoods give me a variety of responses. In whole they understand that the students need a place to park and if the students were respectful of their property in their neighborhoods would likely not forfeit that opportunity to the student body. But unfortunately the students take advantage of the neighborhoods and park on lawns, mow over trash cans, leave considerable amounts of litter behind, and also crowd the City streets just as we have heard as noted on the West Side so that emergency apparatus has difficulty getting through.

So they wear out their welcome, if you would, and then the residents will start calling. But not everybody on a given street is agreeing that they want to have no parking during school hours, because of varied work shifts or multiple cars in their family where they have more than two cars and can't get them all into their driveway. They have need to park on the streets, and they feel that they pay their taxes and why can't they park their own vehicles in front of the house and still keep the kids from blocking and making a mess. So just as Alderman Duval has stated, I have not found a perfect solution to the issue surrounding Memorial High School. I have considered and bantered a little bit with Brandy Stanley, some sort of residential parking permit that we have seen utilized around the Verizon that might enable at least the problem of residents wanting the privilege of parking on their street, and still discouraging the student parking when it's a problem due to congestion or trash issues, but that is opened for discussion. On the flip side for the student side, I've had some conversations with the principal at Memorial High School and I think it's important that we realize that any action at Memorial that is taken to limit the student body from parking on sight, and I've bantered with Principal Adamakos, Arthur Adamakos, several thoughts which went from some sort of performance-based privilege to park on campus and he brought me up to speed on some of the issues that they have at all high schools. Being if an individuals is denied parking, there are several loopholes, if you would, that they can come back and demand a parking space whether it is due to a disability, walking issues, that performance-base has been challenged in the courts and has lost before. He also repeatedly reminds me that any effort I make to limit parking on the campus is only going to further the residential neighborhood parking by the students because no matter what we do the entitlement of the youth today is they will have a car and they will bring it. We also discussed maybe increasing the cost of the permits that they charge at Memorial High School, which is I think quite a bargain today. He keeps the cost down for those students that are less advantaged and charges three dollars a school year, which covers the actual materials on-site. They have a clock replacement program and some other on-site Memorial High School programs that they fund with the three dollars, as well as the cost of printing all their parking permits for their four hundred spaces on campus. I thought that if that price was increased, not to discourage, but to afford us a source of revenues to do some better enforcement in the residential neighborhoods surrounding. Maybe to supplement the existing police efforts that go through the residential neighborhoods tagging the students that are parking in the No Parking During School Hours zones. That may be a way to increase enforcement without further adding to the burden of the Police Department. But once again I think the very thing that, particularly for the other schools, is that I think all we are doing is pushing our student body further and further out from them the high school campuses. Because we are posting more and more of our surrounding residential neighborhoods, I think we cannot lose sight of the fact, and I did have actually phone calls from parents of students at Central just because they knew me. There

are concerns with the student body walking that distance, particularly for women, for girls, that there is a lot of what they considered to be threatening areas surrounding the high school campus that they just don't want their children to be forced to walk distance from. I don't know if we should be looking at remote parking or increasing busing which today is more expensive than the parking permits. I think we charge \$7.50 a week for ten rides in the buses; certainly three dollars a year for a parking permit is probably cheaper. Obviously there is gas and the cost of the car and the car insurance, so it's truly not cheaper but in the minds of the students if money is no object it is. There are certainly many different approaches and different approaches at Memorial than there are at the other two campuses that don't have the on-site parking.

Chairman Duval stated and I think again initially there are three different observations here, three different Wards three different high schools and the conditions are slightly different at the three high schools. So your perspective, Alderman DeVries, is invaluable and going back to a couple of comments Alderman Thibault made, I think that while the high schools obviously were there before a number of residents moved in for sure, the conditions have changed dramatically. Again, we have just sheer volume; the number vehicles being driven to school today is not what it was ten, fifteen, twenty years ago by any means. And, as Alderman DeVries pointed out, some of the conditions that I respond to daily, it basically comes down to the behavior of the individual driving the vehicle - highly disrespectful and very reckless and careless in regard to the way they treat people's property. And quite frankly the way they throw trash in our City streets. We've increased for instance, just as an example as sort of a fallout from the volume I think in a negative way would be the street sweeping activity we've had to increase around high schools because of the amount of trash that is thrown out of car windows by students. So that's sort of a side issue and I don't want to get too distracted by that but it's certainly something we hear about. Some of the things you talked about, Alderman DeVries, this morning certainly can spawn discussion whether it's busing or charging fees for parking etceteras, etceteras; those are things we have to put on the table for consideration, and it may not be one umbrella remedy to this problem either; if the conditions are unique at each high school then perhaps it might be a mixed plan that we come up with to address the conditions at the three high schools. That's certainly not out of the questions and we certainly should keep that in mind; it may not be one quick fix. So I will briefly, if I just want hear from the people that are here this morning if Ms. Stanley could come up to the microphone this morning.

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated good morning, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Duval interjected Brandy, I appreciate your being here. I know you have a lot on your plate since you accepted the position for this newly created

position of Parking Manager and this issue of course is not one that can be sort of fixed overnight. You and I have had preliminary discussions as to what we might be able to do and this sort has come as a result of the conversations that you and I had relative to the conditions that exist, so I appreciate your efforts and this Committee will certainly give you the time you need to give us the information we need to start making some decisions so it's not asking you to do anything overnight. I know you have a number of things on your plate, mainly the Millyard parking you are trying to square away and a number of other projects that you are looking on. I appreciate your interaction with us and I trust that you will be giving us some good valid data that we can use to try build up a plan to address this. Jim, of course your insight is invaluable too. You know the City best; you've been around for so long that you know the conditions that we are talking about because we call you to try to fix them. So I appreciate your input as well. Can I just briefly...do you have any sort of immediate initial remarks this morning that we sort of can be thinking about as we move forward?

Ms. Stanley stated I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that we need to take time to make sure that we come up with the right solution. I think there a lot of considerations that we need to take into, that we need to look at. I agree that there are significantly increase number of students that have been driving to school over the last few years, just based on my experience here and in other places. And I don't think that any solution that we come up with is going to be pain-free for everyone. But I do think that there is a lot of homework that we need to do in terms of public outreach and just basically gathering a bunch of data in terms of what the parking patterns are and what the issues really are around all three high schools.

Chairman Duval stated absolutely. Jim, do you have any comments?

Mr. Jim Hoben, Deputy Traffic Director, stated I would like to say that basically the key to any traffic improvement is going to be the principals because they know where the cars are parking, how many cars are parking, and our experience goes back to West High School we were there last year with Assistant Principal Puglisi; he was okay with the improvements and Alderman Thibault was okay with the improvements, and it was working and assistant principals liked the way it was going. Central High School, that's a whole different ball of wax that one; it's always been a problem there. Mr. Rist, we've worked with him over the years, and with the closing of Ash Street School that's going to be a whole other, whole other jam there. Memorial High School we have some ongoing projects we've been going on fifteen years over there with Alderman DeVries, Arthur Adamakos, and continue to work with them. And Memorial High School might have room for parking expansion in their lot. I believe there is an apron around the area that

could expand. So there's all these things and I think the principals are the key the whole plan that you are looking for.

Chairman Duval stated as I said the problem is certainly one for the City to address but it's going to be a collaborate effort. First of all, we have to secure data. Ms. Stanley and I were talking about this just yesterday, you know, the need to survey and try to get our arms around exactly how many vehicles that we are talking about in and around these high schools, if we possible can, you know, the number of students. There has to be some way to drill down and get the information that we need to try to make sense of it all. We certainly know what the end result is, but we don't know what exactly what is being fed into the matrix here so...and Ms. Stanley is going to be helping us getting that information. So I think that is probably one of the first steps, I don't know Alderman DeVries, Alderman Thibault, but I think that's one of the first steps, to work with the new Parking Manager and try to get some information that we need and I've also asked her to start looking at...and she has been for a little while now, starting to look at what other school districts are doing to address the conditions and it's all across the board. I think you heard me say at one of the Board meetings that some of the school districts go to very extreme measures to really minimize the negative impact of the volume of vehicles that are there during school time. And some have gone as far as just simply eliminating it; they don't allow it at all. Students are not allowed to bring vehicles to school. So it certainly is a privilege; students have to recognize that and the reality is that these tough decisions have to be made; as Ms. Stanley has pointed out, they likely won't be pain free. They will be met with some resistance, but again it doesn't shed us of our responsibility to address the conditions that exist out there. I think, Betsi, if you had anything to add...

Alderman DeVries stated I'd like to also pursue the discussion residential parking permit - what that might entail and if there is some way that it could be posted for No Parking During School Hours but yet something could be given to the residents of property, a sticker that they could put on their car that identifies them so that they aren't going to be a recipient of a ticket and have the privilege of parking in front of their home during school hours. I think that would alleviate a lot of the concerns with the posting and would certainly help the Traffic Signage Division that at least the last couple of years they have been getting piecemeal orders from me, to do just two or three homes at a time, because I have learned that rather than going through signs up and signs down in a neighborhood to make sure that a homeowner realizes in a case-by-case scenario the privilege that they are giving up when they request a signage to be put in front of their home. Because that was part of the, I think, the training curve as an Alderman in the Ward, that Jim Hoben and his predecessors certainly went through advising me until you realize that for every homeowner who wants that No Parking sign up,

there is a neighbor that does not want it there. And when you try to do an entire street it doesn't work; it doesn't work for them.

Chairman Duval stated absolutely, we are dealing with that right now on Lowell Street. We've been dealing with that. We've posted No Parking and the unintended consequence is a number of people were put out by the fact we restricted parking. On the other hand I'm receiving calls from people thanking me for restricting parking, so you really can't win that battle and again you try to do the best you can.

Alderman Thibault stated you also have to be careful when you do this, the effect of that is that you are backing those cars up another street or two streets further so that the neighbors that are not being affected today will be affected if do these things. So it's a catch-22 situation; if you are going to do this and you are going to alleviate the problem here, you are going to put it there.

Alderman DeVries stated I'd say the good part there is seems to be a limit on how far students will walk today. Because we know students who live two blocks away will take their car to school. So you reach a point of...

Alderman Thibault stated I don't know what these two schools are doing but I know at West for instance, or it use to be...I haven't checked on it lately... but they used to, if you were not the second, third or fourth year of high school you could bring your car. The first two years you couldn't bring your car, and they were pretty strict with that, except there were exceptions if a kid in the first or second year of high school has a job to go to right after school, well you've got to give him the right to go to his job so he'd get out of school and jump into his car and go to his job. Those people have special permits to take their car in the first and second, but I don't know if these guys do that in the other schools but I know at West High School that's the way it's been for years.

Chairman Duval stated not that I'm aware of Alderman. One thing I would like to pick up on though, Betsy what you talked about with regard to residence sticker parking, you know, going in, I have to be honest with you I am bias to the extent that residents should have right to park in front of their house whenever they want. I really feel strongly about that; we have residences on Ash Street that are being ticketed and they live there; these are single family homes. I mean it's a real problem.

Alderman DeVries stated in the winter many of those apartment dwellers who have to vacate their parking areas surrounding their apron to parking in surrounding their building, because it's going to be plowed. They move out to the street so that somebody can come in and plow their apartment complex and they

pick up a ticket because now they are violating by parking in a No Parking zone. I can only imagine that your issues are ten fold what I hear surrounding Memorial High School. I think it's worth investigating to see, and if there is going to be a cost borne I would say increasing the parking fee at least at Memorial would support around Memorial the residential parking sticker program. I don't know how they charge at Central; you don't have too many spaces. There is a cost I know for the sticker. Arthur Adamakos was telling me he spends about \$600 to print those stickers so it's not an inexpensive program but I don't think this has to be taxpayer borne; at three dollars a year there is plenty of room without really being...

Chairman Duval stated I can assure you that any resident that comes forward from Ward 4 that would request a resident parking sticker at three dollars a year, I'm sure they would be lining up at door to get them and be glad to pay the three and maybe double that, just as a little bonus to the City. That's my sense, and anybody who thinks they're adversely affected by parking in and around Central High School I think would be and should be entitled to a resident parking sticker that's renewable every year or two years or something like that, and I think they would pay a fee to secure that and have the security of knowing the car won't be ticketed during the times that you have spoken of. But those are just random thoughts and some things we may have to look at. Lieutenant Hopkins, I don't know if you have any editorial comment this morning and if you just want to just sort of wait? I don't if you had any observations. I would like to have Mr. Scannell up as well. Randy and Jim, you are all set unless you have further comments or if you have any questions from the Committee for either of them before they leave the microphone.

Lieutenant Jonathan Hopkins stated I think that each schools has its own unique problems just from my time I've been in traffic. I know at Memorial I have a lot of complaints and I have an officer assigned down there usually at the close of school cause of parent pick up or student pick up. Complaints of parking in driveways blocking driveways rude behavior even by the parents, not the just the students. Almost near fistfights; blocking the bus access; that's the most complaints I get from Memorial's area. Not a lot of parking complaints; every once in a while we do; I am familiar with trying to post an area for resident parking only and the resident being very angry that he couldn't park in front of his own house. The West High School has its own unique problems. Alderman Thibault is well aware; a lot of them occur at the end of school. We do devote a lot of resources to the schools. My officers usually work at Memorial. We'll use community policemen and route officers over at West High and the bicycle officers at Central. And usually it's a learning curve because most of my problems that occur at the beginning of the season, the beginning of the school year, and by the time a few months have gone by and we've taken enforcement

action it's not just parking, it's loud noise, littering, loitering on people's property; students learn and it takes a couple of weeks or a couple of months and then problems seem to go away a little bit. I think anything you do is going to have an impact on the neighborhood, whether residential parking...I think the kids are going to park further away from the school. I think you have to look at what Alderman Thibault brought up; you have some kids that work after school; you also have student athletes; they have practices after school and the buses don't run in the evening hours so they have to get home after school; with both parents working that's going to be an issue. So, whatever you do is going to have a negative impact on somebody; you just have to look at the least impact dealing with police complaints you are going to get. But somebody is going to be affected negatively by whatever you do, so you have a big job.

Alderman DeVries stated it's probably more of a question for David Scannell but with the new impound lot that was put in up in Derryfield Park area, has the School District ever looked at shuttling or having a bus route that comes through there, one of the high school bus routes that comes through there to pick up Central students that want to park there and be delivered down at Central High?

Mr. David Scannell, School/Community Services Coordinator, stated I've never heard of any discussions along those lines, but it's something I think that could be considered.

Alderman DeVries stated I know, I think that Trinity students have enjoyed the privilege of parking there. But, I don't think it was put in with that concept in mind; it probably is something that we should look at for this coming fall.

Chairman Duval stated I think, Alderman DeVries, I think that is fine. Everything's on the table for consideration. The problem is, you understand, is that Trinity High School students do use it; they've grown accustomed to using it, and now you are going to displace those vehicles. As Alderman Thibault pointed out now they are going to be parking on City streets or in a residential area up on Hanover Hill, so it's not going to go away by just doing that. It's not a vacant lot that's just sitting there waiting to be used. It's consumed.

Alderman DeVries stated I can't say I agree with you. Were the Trinity students parking on the street prior? Were they there prior though to having a parking lot across the street?

Chairman Duval stated fortunately the school is not as large, as you know; it's a small high school, so it doesn't have the impact the City high schools do anyway. But yes, they were parking on the streets. I don't think there's enough...again they just don't have the number of vehicles to deal with, but the parking lot is full.

The parking lot is full now, so they're coming from somewhere; I'm assuming it's from the high school, and I know that on campus there they have limited number of parking there, parking probably for faculty only and that's about it. So it's something that we have to be careful of if are going to move to do that. Although again, if it's municipal parking lot, again maybe there should be fees and Trinity should be brought into the discussion to work with us and try to address some of the issues as well. But I do know that we will have to include them because if we go to remove that parking they will be moving to the City streets.

Alderman Thibault stated well you know before I had these two lots built on Granite Street to accommodate some of the students at West High School they used to park all the way down to Hevey Street off of Conant. When I put these two lots on Granite Street, which probably handles about 120 cars, it came back to almost Dubuque Street, which is three streets that were no longer affected by the school, if you will. But if you take that away from them again, you are going to push those cars back to Hevey Street and then I am going to have complaints from these people that have never had to deal with this. This is the problem, so you have to be careful with the solutions you're going to try to make. I agree with Alderman DeVries and you that things should be tried, but be careful about what you do because if you take this problem from here all you are going to do is put it here.

Chairman Duval stated agreed. You have to be very careful of that.

Alderman Thibault continued and even if you give...and you know one thing that you have to careful of is the one thing that we have never done in this City except for the Verizon is resident permits, because if you open up that box you are going to leave it open for a lot of people because if they get over here, why can't get it here? So resident parking is something that we've only done ever in this City for the Verizon, and the reason we did it is because we knew that we displaced these people. That's the only reason we did it, so if you want to check back on that and how this happened you'll find the reason. And if you do it now, how can you tell the people on Auburn Street that Bridge Street can't have it, if you are going to give to those people? So if you do open that box you have to remember it's going to be opened for a long time and by a lot of people. So just a thought...

Chairman Duval stated Mr. Scannell, I don't know if you came this morning with any kind of thoughts in mind but you are welcome to share this morning.

Mr. Scannell stated plenty of thoughts, but I'll keep them to myself because the most important people in this discussion are the three principals, and I know they will have an opportunity to talk with you. I know your ear is still burning; I was in the office when Mr. Adamakos talked to you yesterday. So I just want to express

this: School Districts' willingness to work with you, whether it's gathering numbers or patterns in order to get the facts that you need on the table. And the only thing I would add today, just as an observation, is I think people do need to keep in mind that school schedules are so different than they were when any of us were in high school. Kids come and go really at various times. Kids can drive their own cars to MST. They do have after school jobs. At Central you don't have to be there until homeroom which is after the first two mods. So as we look at solutions that may depend on shuttle buses and whatnot, we would have to look at the possibility of doing that really throughout the day and there are those attendant cost and whatnot. But I will leave it to the three principals; I said I would sort of be a conduit for them, give them the information that I received here. I'm will put a little memo together when I go back, and I think they are very eager to have the opportunity to talk to you about their unique issues at each of their high schools. If you need information we're happy to provide that.

Alderman Thibault stated just one more thing: The biggest impact that these principals have in my opinion is the trash, the litter that comes out of these kids and I think that the more that they stress that to the student body it will alleviate some of our problem, you know. But they've got to be told; these kids have got to be told constantly about it, so if the principal brings it up every time there is an assembly, it's going to eventually sink into some of these kids and you are going to get half of what you are getting now.

Mr. Scannell stated and even if I think if there are small measures where the community can see that in fact the schools do care about that impact, whether it is some sort of monthly project where kids would actually pick up the trash in those neighborhoods, things of that nature to demonstrate that we do care. But just again, the kid culture today is so different. You may have walked to school, taken a bus. Now what happens is, you and your friends are in a car and before you go to school you know where you stop? Dunkin' Donuts. And you have all that trash with you, and I agree sometimes more often...well, it's never necessary; it does end up in the curb or on someone's property. But if you were to walk around Central High School as kids get there really early to get the best spaces and look into their cars, they're all sipping from the Dunkin' Donuts cup, eating a donut or whatever; it's just that's where breakfast is; breakfast is in their cars now. It's a totally different culture in all aspects.

Chairman Duval stated David, just a couple of things you touched on that I'm sort of going to take you up on, because I don't think we need sort of an outreach program or certainly to have the schools become better or seen as better neighbors you know. I don't think we need to go through this process to get to that point. So whatever you can do to work with us in maybe instituting some of those practices, that would be wonderful and I think that would mean a lot to our

neighborhoods where these high schools are. So think it's a great idea and I would really appreciate whatever you can do on your end with the School District to maybe initiate those programs at the three high schools, because I think as Alderman Thibault pointed out, we need to do something. We need to at least try. And I think that is what the residents want is sort of to feel as if there is some spirit of cooperation and that they aren't just being dump on daily during the school year. Because, again it's always a few apples that spoil the bunch and that's what we have going on. There's a number of wonderful students that are responsible, that don't throw trash out the windows. Unfortunately, it's the dozen or so that do it routinely or the ones that idle in front of a resident's house with blaring music and smoking and that kind of stuff. So I think we have to counter that with what's good and try to promote good behavior as best we can, I think it's a great idea. I would appreciate as Chairman of the Committee, David, if you would kindly...I'm sure you might be doing already, but communicate with the high school principals; convey to them from us that we certainly have no intentions of leaving them out of the process; it's a process of inclusion. The reason why I wanted to keep it relatively small this morning, it was just so that the City can begin to do its thing in collecting data and start to organize. It's really premature. I don't want to waste their time by calling principals down to a meeting such as this, this morning, so I think just convey to them that we will be calling on them, and certainly they have access to ask us anytime; I'm sure any one of the three Aldermen would be happy to chat with them. So I just want to make sure that message is conveyed.

Mr. Scannell responded perfect.

Alderman DeVries stated David, I would like to follow up because you seem do be indicating there is a willingness with the principals to have the student body go out into the surrounding neighborhoods.

Mr. Scannell stated I don't want to speak for the principals. I told them I wouldn't do that.

Alderman DeVries stated what I was going to mention, and I think I heard again yesterday, is that's very contrary from what I hear from the principal at Memorial High School who reminds me constantly that his students, his staff and his SRO are responsible for the campus and not for the surrounding neighborhoods for the multitudes of issues that we know come from the student body, whether it's misbehavior in the surrounding neighborhoods, drug use or littering and parking. They are contained to the student campus and he has and I think again, he goes back to legal cards, and I'm sure there are many court cases to support that, that they cannot be used.

Mr. Scannell stated right, I think the suggestion I was making was more along the lines of things that do go on in our schools in term of community service projects. That this is not something that would have an enforcement aspect to it where a student would be sort of enforcing certain behavior on the street, that would give the student or the teacher that responsibility. But if we are doing the community clean up which students participate in all the time, if there could be some aspect of dealing with the people who are closest to the schools and concentrating on those neighborhoods.

Alderman DeVries stated I don't have a problem with that, but you have the good eggs picking up after the bad eggs. And you know that the ones that blatantly will sit on South Porter Street in front of the high school, open up the car door to let his buddy in and rake out, you know, not just a Dunkin' Donuts cup in a bag, but many pieces and they do it right in front of...They've done it in front of me when I've been looking at the school pick up and the parent proceedings that we have every school year to iron out on South Porter Street. Total disregard for littering. They don't care. They will take five or six bags and rake them all out into the street and they are there to blow into the surrounding neighborhoods. I would love to see litter enforcement because it is a State statute. We can ticket on that and at some point we need to shock them by enforcing that \$250 fine, and catch them red handed and word will spread. And then still have the good eggs go out occasionally and do the community service piece in the surrounding neighborhoods for what does blow, because you won't catch it all, but I think if you did some enforcement, the word would spread. Maybe I have been dealing with this too long and I go right to the stick but that's where I'm at with this. I've tried all of the smaller...

Chairman Duval stated and Alderman DeVries, quite frankly, we worked some long hours this last budget session, the one that just ended to accomplish two things that I think that are significant. One, we did work with the Police Department in beefing up police hires and I think that's huge. We need the Police Department to have personnel available to do some of these things. Ultimately that's the goal. It may not be ready today but they are swearing in new officers this week or next week I think it is Lieutenant Hopkins, and we need to get more officers on the streets, that more are available during peak times so we can respond to some of these concerns. I think Alderman DeVries is absolutely correct; we need to get serious about it. And number two is that last night I was thrilled to see the street sweeper going around at ten o'clock last night in my neighborhood. So we purposely funded an additional position at the Highway Department to increase the activity of street sweeping in and around high schools specifically. That was on of the immediate most important objectives. So we are trying to respond to some of those concerns and enforcement and everything else.

Alderman DeVries stated and I'm not saying we are not trying to respond because beefing up community policing, we knew after...I think we added a little bit to the Traffic Division over the last few years in response to many of the high school issues and the other speed enforcement issues that we've had, and now beefing up community policing is only going to help us with the tools that we need, to occasionally have the big sticks in the school areas.

Chairman Duval stated final comments and then I want to just get final input from Ms. Stanley and then we'll adjourn.

Alderman Thibault stated just one more thing, okay? I agree with Alderman DeVries that enforcement of these kids, the school kids, but not just the school kids. There are also some adults that do this, throw their trash out of their car. I think if in fact that was enforced in most of the high schools, even just two or three times, as Alderman DeVries points out, the words going to get out: Watch out when you throw something out of your car; if somebody sees you can get fined for that up to two hundred and fifty bucks. That's a City ordinance; it's not just a school thing. But then I have to go back to what I said before to Dave, with the three principals: If the three principals bring this up to the student body that the City is going to be very heavily involved in finding out who's thrown this trash. I think it again will cut down another twenty percent or thirty percent of what it is today. So I think it's very important to have the three principals bring up to the student body the fact that the City is going to be looking at this very carefully, so that they know. And if, as Alderman DeVries says, one or two of these kids or adults get caught with this \$250 fine and they have no right to say anything else because it's a City ordinance. They can't say it's the school that's coming after them; it's a City ordinance. I think Betsi hits on a good spot there.

Mr. Scannell stated and I'll bring that back to the school principals and let them know that they should underscore that.

Chairman Duval stated I think anything that the School District can do on that regard can only benefit. Alderman Thibault pointed out if we reduce it by ten or fifteen or twenty percent then it's been successful. So I think David gets the point. I think he's here this morning...He came voluntarily. I didn't ask him to be here so I really appreciate his being here this morning.

Alderman Thibault stated it's good to know that other people are interested in this.

Chairman Duval stated that's right. Absolutely. Just before we adjourn, Ms. Stanley, in terms of timetable, what's reasonable to expect of you in terms of coming back with some initial recommendations or giving us some idea of what exist out there and other school districts throughout the State and even if we have

to go outside the state of New Hampshire to find, if we have to go to Lowell or Lawrence or some other congested little cities that have similar problems? What would need? Do you need thirty days, forty-five, sixty days, realistically?

Ms. Stanley stated I think that the first thing I need to do is understand what the issues are, and I think there is a number of people I need to talk to: the principals, all three Aldermen, some people in the Police Department, the people that have been enforcing parking in the high schools. I'd also like to do some summertime occupancy count to find out what the parking demand is when there are not students in the areas. I need to look at...do...map out a signage audit to find out where we have No Parking During School Hour signs, that type of thing. And just really get an idea of what the issues are as well continue with other research, research about what other schools are doing. Honestly that is probably going to take about sixty days, so if it's possible coming back in September with a list of what a lot of the issues are, we can use that information to work on coming up with some type of solutions.

Chairman Duval stated perhaps you and Jim can coordinate whatever resources you think you need. If you need help from other departments to try to do surveys during the summer, you mentioned some surveys being done during the summer that might be of great use, then please reach out. Whatever we can do I'm sure to help you out we will certainly try to get you the resources that you need because it's temporary. But the information will be terribly helpful to us in trying to make decisions so please let us know between you and Jim what we can do to assist by getting you the help you need. I'm sure again David Scannell has offered his assistance and I really appreciate the offering he's extended on behalf of the School District this morning. I'm sure you will get the cooperation from the School District in trying to get the information you need and I know I talked yesterday of course some of the information won't come until after school starts, but whatever we can get done over the summer would be great. I'd like to probably meet, Brandy, if we can, before sixty days at least to get an initial report, so whatever the priority list is for you, whatever the number one and two items are, if you can report back what you've got so far I think that would be great, even if it's just a brief meeting. So maybe the Clerk, if you want to schedule a meeting for maybe before school starts, maybe at the end of August, Brandy, if that works for you. Maybe just before school starts to try to get an idea as to the information we've collected over the next four to six weeks.

Alderman Thibault stated one more thing I would like to bring out. Maybe, Jim, for you it would probably be a good idea to get a few of these \$250 litter signs put up at all the high schools. Both ends of the idea of where the main kids park okay? In the schools if you put those \$250 fines for littering so that that again will bring it up to them to find out. And if the principals, if they follow through with

this and let these principals know as these kids come back into school they'll see these new signs that are put up there. They know that somebody's afoot here and looking at what's happening. So I think, Jim, if you could do that it would be very helpful.

Alderman DeVries stated I was just going to comment before because I think we border on sign pollution at least at Memorial because we have so many on street parent pick up parking issues. Though I think that might be a good idea, I would first rather try to have them posted at the doorway as they go in that the school is putting them on notice that the City is looking to enforce this. I'm not ready for signage at Memorial but maybe West is.

Chairman Duval stated great suggestion. I think that the whatever visibility we can get as a community within the confines of the school building, the school facility, I think is far more valuable and I think that Alderman Thibault's idea is a good one. However, I would just say I'd like to see anything that we do that comes as a result of this that it comes as part of an overall plan, so that we try to...it has a greater impact. So I think the visibility within the schools is real good idea. And I'm sure that Dave Scannell is taking notes. All set, so Madam Clerk, we'll meet before the end of August at a time that's certainly when the three Aldermen are going to be present and Ms. Stanley and just coordinate so these same people can come back. Anything else this morning? Any closing comments at all from people that are here this morning?

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest

Clerk of Committee