

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

**September 24, 2007
Aldermen Duval,
Thibault, DeVries**

**8:30 AM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Chairman Duval called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Thibault and DeVries

Chairman Duval addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Continuing discussions relating to parking in the vicinity of high schools.

Chairman Duval stated good morning everyone. Thank you for being here this morning as we continue our discussion and work with regard to trying to address the parking issues in and around the three Manchester high schools. Brandy Stanley, the City's Parking Manager, has revised a Project List and Timelinewhich has been handed out to each of you this morning. In addition to that, she's also provided some information with regard to what other school districts in New Hampshire and in Massachusetts have done, what policies and procedures they have in place to address parking concerns around their high schools. I think it's quite enlightening and very good information to have. Brandy won't limit her investigation to just these. Of course we'll look far and wide to come up with possible solutions to address the concerns that we have here in Manchester. The information is very good. I've only looked at it just briefly and I'm sure we'll look at it closer in the weeks to come. Brandy, do you have any...if you want to come up this morning to the mike there. It looks like we're pretty well represented here this morning. I just want to make a note that this is a process of inclusion and collaboration, and in particular I want to thank the School District for continuing to show an interest in assisting us and trying to start off on the right footing by making certain that the School District, faculty, administrators, and students are represented as we go through the process. Mr. Scannell has been very helpful. I notice that Assistant Superintendent Burkush is here this morning as well. Thank you very much. Also, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council has a member here this morning as well. Mr. Bolen, thank you for coordinating that effort. So it

looks like we have...and also the MTA is here this morning as well. Mr. Smith is here this morning with a member from his staff. I think it was Alderman DeVries who suggested, and I think it was a very good suggestion, that we involve them so we can see if perhaps down the road they can contribute with possible solutions to getting kids to and from school at the high school level. Ms. Stanley adjusted the Timeline and Project List, and again, I think the document speaks for itself that again, we want to take the time necessary to come up with solutions that will hopefully stick for some time to come after we look to implement them in the fall of 2008. So for our viewers, people that are interested in this issue that can't be with us this morning, there's no rush to come up with any kind of fix to these problems at any of the three high schools, and we're looking to really conduct extensive due diligence in coming up with any proposed solutions. So there's no action at all coming from this Committee for quite some time to come. Ms. Stanley, do you have any comments on this?

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated the updated Timeline is just a listing of what we've done so far and the status report on the things that we haven't finished. I've gotten the information from all three high schools on their statistical information in terms of number of students in each class, available parking on site that they have and what types of policies that they have for student parking. We have audited all of the signage on the streets in the areas of all three high schools and color-coded a map which is now at Highway for them to make it look a little bit more presentable than what we had. They should have that done this week so I will have it for the next meeting.

Chairman Duval stated and you said a map as to where the existing signage is? No Parking, Limited Parking, that kind of stuff?

Ms. Stanley responded basically what the map is going to show is what parking is available for students and what parking is not available for students and residents, which is really the way it's configured. If you have non-student parking, it's not really available for residents either because of the two-hour limit, or No Parking During School Hours, so hopefully we'll be able to make better use of those spaces that are currently limited and neither party can use them, at some point in the future when we come up with recommendations. So we think that there are some opportunities out there. We're obviously going to continue to be in the process of looking at other high schools and what their policies are. I'm sure you can see from the list that we have put together so far that there are some very interesting trends within almost all of the high schools that we talked about in terms of limiting parking to seniors and juniors, depending on the number of spaces each high school has at its disposal. We've identified enforcement trouble areas around all three high schools. I didn't have that in a format to present to be able to present to the Committee but we do have a listing of the areas where there

are problems, based on what went on since school started this year. And for the most part, that's pretty much where we are at this point. Over the next couple of weeks I'll be calling all of the Aldermen and all of the stakeholders and the people that support the school transportation system to get a much better idea of what the issues are for each one of those parties and we'll put them together for a report in December.

Chairman Duval asked, Alderman DeVries, any comments? I know we just got the material this morning but were there any questions or any comments that you have?

Alderman DeVries responded not yet.

Chairman Duval asked any comments from people here this morning? Again, I know you just got the material, so we can keep this relatively brief this morning, allow you an opportunity to take a look at what's contained there. Ms. Stanley is going to continue to conduct her due diligence and between her and her staff, I think continue to conduct her survey so we know what's out there currently. And basically continue to try to stick to the Timeline and Project List for carrying out the tasks. So I appreciate that ongoing effort. Any comments this morning at all?

Alderman DeVries stated I'm just looking at the dates on the Timeline for public input, the public stakeholder meetings, December 6 – 20th. Is that really the best time to try to have public meetings with everything that goes on at Christmas? I'm just throwing that out there for consideration. If anybody thinks that's going to limit our participation, maybe we should revise that date.

Chairman Duval stated well, she's got it from the 6th through the 20th. I obviously the closer we get to the end of the month, the more problematic it becomes. I'm not sure about the first part of the month. Ms. Stanley, maybe we can...I mean, that's a pretty good suggestion. Are you thinking of maybe pushing it off till after the holidays?

Alderman DeVries stated I don't know if the principals would agree with me but I would think that with everything that goes on in the month of December, that maybe putting public input off until January...

Chairman Duval stated I think that makes sense.

Alderman DeVries stated the time of day for the meeting schedule, I would assume we are trying to do something in the evening.

Ms. Stanley stated I would imagine that that would be the time.

Chairman Duval stated yes, if we're going to be seeking public comment, we want to do it during the evening.

Alderman DeVries stated I was just thinking, all of the concerts and events.

Chairman Duval stated point well taken. Why don't we, Ms. Stanley, why don't we look to push that off till maybe, I'm thinking even the second or third week in January? So we can revise that.

Alderman DeVries stated we'll have the primary in the State first and then we'll do this! The only other thought I had in reference to the entire project is to try to engage the youth to do some kind of...I don't know what it would be...some sort of internal polling and suggestions, whatever they think might be helpful in giving us some feedback in trying to initiate that process. I don't know what it will bring us.

Chairman Duval stated I think that was the whole idea in engaging the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. I've already met with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, chatted with them briefly at Mr. Bolen's office, and tried to engage the student body at each of the three high schools to some extent. Again, specifically we don't know yet, but that's certainly our intent to engage them as best we can. Information is going to be key in how it flows to students at the three high schools. We talked about utilizing the three school newspapers. We'll certainly make sure that happens. Ms. Stanley, were you planning on using student groups at any of the three high schools?

Ms. Stanley stated it wasn't on my original timeline but one of the questions that did cross my mind over the last couple of weeks was how do we involve the students. I think originally I had planned to make sure that we have student participation during the public meetings. However, with the addition of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council to this process I think that they would be very, very helpful in getting input from the students on campus. I think that's a great idea.

Alderman DeVries stated one other comment on the transit. I see that you're hoping for the next meeting that you'll have the bus service mapped out and the times and coordinating. Was there any initial feedback? I see Mr. Smith is with us. Did you have any feedback on whether you have any hopes for the process or any thoughts at this point, some direction you want to give us? Or do you want to compile more information before you engage at a higher level with us?

Ms. Stanley stated I don't have a whole lot of information at this point but I have heard from parents and students, and at the last meeting it was basically stated that it's easier for kids to drive than to ride the bus. Bus service for after school service seems to be somewhat limited, so we definitely need to add that into the mix. What exactly the bus service is, at this point I don't have any information.

Mr. David Smith, Transit Authority Executive Direct stated we have published information for each of the schools relative to the availability of transit service at those schools, as well as yellow bus service at those schools. There are five yellow buses that transfer high school students in areas that are not served by the transit buses. These flyers are available at the schools for students, and I believe they're also posted on our web site, so you could find them there. We'll supply copies to members of the Committee.

Alderman DeVries stated one final comment if I would, I guess the reason I was asking is I'm just wondering what's going to happen at Central High School when they lose the little bit of parking that they have with the sale of the Ash Street School, and I didn't know if that was something you're trying to fast-track, Alderman, for a solution?

Chairman Duval responded no. We're not. I mean, that's been talked about for months, Alderman DeVries. At one point parking wasn't available. It's only been in recent years that it's been available. The transition and pending sale of that building has been widely publicized. I think students that continue to park there, they continue to do so until it's officially sold, which is coming real soon. That parking is going to disappear. We don't have any immediate answers, naturally, because of the parking conditions around Central High School. But I think they see it coming or have known it's fairly imminent that that's going to disappear. Quick fixes are not what we're looking for, and I don't see any way to address that immediately. But that's the whole idea. That's the reason why we started this process, and I hope in time we'll come up with solutions that are a little bit better for everyone. So I really don't have any immediate answer for you.

Alderman DeVries stated Alderman Thibault, I just wanted to welcome you back. I know you've been in the hospital quite a bit lately and I'm glad to see you back up on your feet and joining us. We've missed you.

Alderman Thibault stated thank you.

Chairman Duval stated so that's pretty much it. I think we have a timeline, we have a project list, we have information. I think this is...I'm trying to think how we can probably use this a little bit more in terms of letting people know that there are possible solutions out there. Other school districts have come up with plans

and procedures. Some of them have had it longer than others, but I know, Ms. Stanley, you've conducted some effort there to find out what some other districts are doing. I'll be taking a look at this for sure. I just got it this morning, along with the rest of you. It's pretty interesting stuff, and I think we have to keep an open mind as we go forward, and look to perhaps change our ways a bit...reel in our thinking and expectations and hopefully come up with a good proposal that will...or a good plan of action that will have some legs and stick around for a while.

Alderman DeVries stated one final question if I might: Brandy, the list or the map that you were making with the on-street school restrictions and other restrictions, are you taking that information from Ordinance that's actually on the records or are you actually going out and looking at the neighborhoods? Because I've found the two are not always a perfect match.

Ms. Stanley stated yes, we actually went out and looked at the neighborhoods. What's on the Ordinance Code, that's what it is. It's not actually out on the streets, so we did actually physically go out and audit everything.

Alderman DeVries stated I would note that with recent construction projects that we've had in the neighborhoods around Memorial High School we had construction all last summer. A lot of the signage went down in that neighborhood and that appears to be an area the ordinance doesn't match all of the signage. We've had some delays in getting signage back up there. So you may want to check with the Traffic Division and that's an area, I'm kind of waiting for that information myself, so that we can fill in the pieces per the request of the neighborhood. Thank you.

Chairman Duval asked all set? Any comments from those in attendance 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