

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

**August 26, 2008**

**4:00 PM**

Chairman J. Roy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen J. Roy, DeVries

Absent: Alderman Ouellette

Chairman J. Roy addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Discussion relating to residential parking permits and zones.

On motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Chairman J. Roy, it was voted to discuss this item.

Alderman DeVries stated we are here this afternoon to continue the discussion that we have started on initiating a new project around Memorial High School. I guess we will be starting. It's a residential parking zone and I would ask that you introduce the concept behind this, its assets and limitations, Brandy.

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated basically what you have before you is the creation of a new residential parking permit zone. There are several of those zones existing in the downtown area. As of now there are not any outside of the downtown. The reason that you would start a residential parking permit zone is if you have a problem with homeowners and residents on local streets being able to park in front of their own homes. Obviously in front of each of the three high schools this is an issue. Currently around most of the high schools there are a lot of No Parking Anytime signs and No Parking During School Hours signs, and this applies to all three high schools, not just Memorial. The problem that this creates is that it takes those spaces out of inventory which means no one can use them. The residents can't use them and neither can the students. One of the primary goals of what we are doing for all three high schools is to return as many spaces back into inventory as we can so we can get them used by the people who really need them. In some cases it is students and in some cases it is residents. Memorial posed...I am not going to say the easiest solution but probably the most

cut and dried solution in terms of residential parking. Most of the streets around Memorial are signed for No Parking During School Hours. With the introduction of a residential parking permit, what we are doing is we are allowing a two-hour time limit on all of those streets that are currently signed for No Parking and residents that have an address inside the residential parking permit zone are actually exempt from the two-hour limit. What this does is it allows residents to park in front of their own properties if they have a permit and it allows the public to park in front of their properties for no longer than two hours during school hours.

Alderman DeVries asked the two hour parking, open to the public, why does that need to be a part of this program?

Ms. Stanley responded legal precedent throughout the United States has shown that you cannot prevent certain groups of parkers from parking in an individual parking space so basically you have to allow public parking or you have to restrict it to all parkers. So what we are doing by the residential parking zone is opening those spaces up but restricting all day parkers from those spaces.

Alderman DeVries stated I would assume that it's anticipated that the two hour limit would preclude almost the majority if not all of the student parking on the streets but allow workmen and such to come and parking there, unload.

Ms. Stanley stated I think it would certainly make it difficult for students to park there on a daily basis. One of the things to be expected however is that there are going to be more cars parked in these two hour limit zones. That comes back to the enforcement on the part of the Parking Division. These spaces need to be enforced on a consistent basis. As we go further down the line with more meetings in front of this Committee, one of our recommendations is probably going to be to add a seasonal parking control officer that is devoted just to the high schools because at this point we don't have the resources to effectively enforce all of the high schools. Again, that is probably going to be something we are going we are going to present a little bit further down the line so that we can actually make these things work.

Alderman DeVries asked how do you anticipate enforcing that? Is that by chalking the tires and seeing if they have moved?

Ms. Stanley responded yes, basically.

Alderman DeVries asked if a student was able to get out of class and move their vehicle every two hours, they would be able to do that?

Ms. Stanley stated that's correct.

Alderman DeVries stated but they cannot park there all day.

Ms. Stanley stated right.

Alderman DeVries stated it's the beginning of a solution. I guess the one question my residents will have is how their vehicles are going to be identified and exempted from the students.

Ms. Stanley stated a residential parking permit actually requires that someone that has an address that I believe needs to be on their drivers license, needs to come by City Hall, the Ordinance Violation Bureau, and apply for and receive one of those parking permits.

Alderman DeVries asked can that be done online?

Ms. Stanley responded not at this point, no.

Alderman DeVries asked do you anticipate that?

Ms. Stanley stated we would like to have that ability but it is probably going to be more than a year away so for the immediate time you would have to come in person.

Alderman DeVries stated so there is going to be some inconvenience unfortunately for the residents but certainly that inconvenience has to be measured against the inconvenience of never being able to utilize parking spaces in front of their homes during at least school hours or dealing with the trash and the other issues that come with the students if they are allowed to park there. This is I guess hopefully, the beginning of a solution. I know that we did have public hearings on this and at Memorial we did talk about this program and it was my recollection that was extremely well received by the homeowners that attended that meeting. Do you know how long it will take for this to be up and running?

Ms. Stanley responded it would mostly be a matter of getting the signage changed in order for it to. Obviously we would have to have the ordinances passed however long that takes, but getting the signage changed would be the most time consuming thing and we could work with the Highway Department on getting those manufactured and getting those installed as soon as possible.

Alderman DeVries asked have we waived Bills on Second Reading on this?

Ms. Stanley stated I defer to the City Clerk on that.

Deputy City Clerk Matt Normand stated the Board certainly could if they choose to.

Alderman DeVries asked it has not occurred yet though, so when the committee report is received we should at least prompt myself or Alderman J. Roy to make that motion so that we can waive B2R and maybe have this up and going fairly close to the beginning of school or within a month.

Ms. Stanley stated I think that would definitely be doable. We can get it up and running within a month.

Alderman DeVries asked has the Traffic Department been alerted that this ordinance is working its way through and to initiate the signage?

Ms. Stanley stated I did have a preliminary conversation with Jim Hoben but I think I probably need to touch base with Kevin Sheppard as well, which I will do this afternoon.

Chairman J. Roy stated this addresses the needs of the residents. I just want to make sure it is clear in my mind that you have also addressed the needs of the students, to make sure there is adequate parking for them as well.

Ms. Stanley stated I don't believe that this particular thing that we are looking at tonight is going to have any effect on the students. It's not going to give them any more parking than they had before and it's not going to take away any parking that they had before. I think that the next thing we look at is how we can help the students. I don't think this affects them one way or another, which doesn't mean that they don't have an issue that needs to be looked at.

Chairman J. Roy stated because I remember we sent out a questionnaire last year, at the end of last year, for them to fill out so I knew you were gathering information on that. I just wanted for it to be clear in my mind. Let's talk about enforcement. You mentioned, actually we have all mentioned it before and I think we heard at public meetings that all of these measures are well intended but they have to be enforced in order for them to work. With the Police Department being strapped and your department being strapped, your suggestion...I think I heard you just say that you would have a seasonal PCO just for the high schools.

Ms. Stanley stated I think if we had that then we could adequately enforce and consistently enforce the ordinance around all three of the high schools. That was one of the biggest problems at the public meeting and we saw some of that in the surveys that we got back from the students, that they didn't really know when they could expect a ticket and when they couldn't. Enforcement of parking ordinances, as well as speed limits and various other things, is typically enforced more often in the beginning of the school year and then tends to slack off during the course of the school year, which isn't conducive to making people do what they need to consistently.

Chairman J. Roy stated in discussion before you had mentioned to me that this seasonal PCO would actually pay for itself, because my concern would be the budget. Do you have room in your budget for another employee?

Ms. Stanley stated on the expense side we probably don't, but once again, the Parking Division runs on a bottom line budget so as long as the revenue generated by additional expense offsets, then we should probably be okay and we actually do anticipate that all of our PCO's do pay for themselves and then some and that typically seems to continue to be the case.

Chairman J. Roy stated and that would be something we would need to do as soon as possible with the school year starting. That may be something we would want to include as a recommendation to the Board as we go forward.

Alderman DeVries stated absolutely Alderman Roy.

Alderman DeVries moved to approve the ordinance to initiate the residential zone in the Memorial High School neighborhoods and make a recommendation from the Committee that a Seasonal PCO, Parking Control Officer, be hired as soon as possible to enforce the new residential parking zones. Chairman J. Roy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman DeVries stated I just want to thank Brandy very much for hustling this through. I know it's been a very busy summer for you and I appreciate your working on this and getting this up so we have some solutions in sight. I appreciate it.

Ms. Stanley stated no problem.

Chairman J. Roy stated just an acknowledgement, Brandy. Alderman DeVries is absolutely right that you have done a lot of work on this. I appreciate it and I know from our conversations that part of the solutions for Central and West is forthcoming very soon so thank you very much.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Chairman J. Roy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee