

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

July 6, 1999

6:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Reiniger (late), Pinard, Cashin, Hirschmann

Messrs: T. Lolicata, G. Minea-Grigore, D. Duverger

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Ratify and confirm poll conducted June 10, 1999 approving a request by the Forbes 2000 Campaign for the closure of Manchester Street from Elm Street to the unnamed street behind Citizens Bank from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Friday, June 18th.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to ratify and confirm the poll conducted.

Chairman Clancy advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

STOP SIGNS:

ON SCHUYLER STREET AT NORTH DAME AVENUE, NEC
ALDERMAN THIBAUT

ON OLD COHAS AVENUE AT COHAS AVENUE, SEC
ALDERMAN PINARD

ON HUDSON STREET AT PORTER STREET, NEC (EMERGENCY ACT)
ALDERMAN SHEA

PARKING 15 MINUTES:

ON CEDAR STREET, SOUTH SIDE, FROM A POINT 30 FEET WEST OF
MAPLE STREET TO A POINT 40 FEET WEST
ALDERMAN CLANCY

PARKING 1/2 HOUR (8:00 AM-6:00 PM):

ON MAPLE STREET, EAST SIDE, FROM SAGAMORE STREET TO A
POINT 65 FEET SOUTHERLY
ALDERMAN KLOCK

ON MAPLE STREET, EAST SIDE, FROM SAGAMORE STREET TO A
POINT 75 FEET NORTHERLY
ALDERMAN KLOCK

HANDICAP PARKING:

ON PLATTS AVENUE, WEST SIDE, FROM A POINT 261 FEET SOUTH OF
CANDIA ROAD TO A POINT 281 FEET
ALDERMAN PINARD

NO PARKING ANYTIME:

ON SHASTA STREET, SOUTH SIDE, FROM BEECH STREET TO A POINT
450 FEET EAST
ALDERMAN SHEA

ON SHASTA STREET, SOUTH SIDE, FROM A POINT 497 FEET EAST OF
BEECH STREET TO MAPLE STREET
ALDERMAN SHEA

RESCIND NO PARKING:

ON SHASTA STREET, SOUTH SIDE, FROM BEECH STREET TO MAPLE
STREET
ALDERMAN SHEA

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

ON CEDAR STREET, NORTH SIDE, FROM A POINT 20 FEET WEST OF
MAPLE STREET TO A POINT 25 FEET WESTERLY
ALDERMAN CLANCY

RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS (8:00AM - 6:00 PM/MON-FRI)

UNLIMITED PARKING:

ON WEST APPLETON STREET, NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES, FROM ELM
STREET TO THE DEAD END
ALDERMAN REINIGER

NO TRUCKS:

ON THIRD STREET, FROM WALKER STREET TO BLAINE STREET
ALDERMAN CASHIN

NO TRUCKS - \$300.00 FINE:

ON SHASTA STREET, FROM MAPLE STREET TO BEECH STREET
ALDERMAN SHEA

REQUEST TWO (2) DIRECTIONAL SIGNS:

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH - ON CANDIA ROAD AND BRIDGE ST. EXT.
WELLINGTON ROAD AT BRIDGE ST. EXT.

ALDERMAN PINARD

DISCUSSION:

ONE-WAY SYSTEM FOR THE SKILL CENTER AT SOUTH PORTER
STREET

ALDERMAN RIVARD

Mr. Lolicata noted there was an addendum to the traffic agenda.

NO TRUCKS - \$300 FINE (9:30PM – 7AM):

ON STRAW ROAD FROM GOFFSTOWN ROAD TO DUNBARTON ROAD
ON GOFFSTOWN ROAD FROM FRONT STREET TO THE TOWN LINE
ALDERMAN HIRSCHMANN

On motion of Alderman Pinard duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to accept the Traffic Agenda.

TABLED ITEMS

5. Communication from Yvonne Calimeri advising the Board of her support relative to a proposed new leash ordinance.

This item remained on the table.

6. Communication from Thomas Lynch expressing his concerns for the lack of a "walk light" at the intersection of South Willow Street and Weston Road.

This item remained on the table.

7. Communication from North Eastern Institute of Whole Health, Inc. resubmitting their request for signage for their facility be placed at various locations throughout the City.
(Tabled 6/7/99)

Alderman Reiniger moved the item for discussion. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Reiniger stated we have the representatives here who made the request. Do we want to hear from them?

Ms. Gabrielle Minea-Grigore stated I am the owner and my partner here Doug Duverger are co-owners of North Eastern Institute of Whole Health. I am an MP and also the Director of the Institute. We have had this school of massage therapy since 1993 on Bridge Street, at 22 Bridge Street in Manchester. We have requested for the past two years to have some signs, actually I believe I did submit the location of the signs. We are, at this time, the largest school of massage therapy in New England. We have over 250 students. We have over 15 qualified, highly qualified instructors from EMT's to PT's to nurses and massage therapists. I personally feel that the way the City Hall handled this was discriminatory against us as a school. I have seen lots of signs all over the place. I have seen Franco-American Institute signs. I have seen the Institute of Arts sign and it looks like every time we try to request some signs for our institute, we are denied. I also added in my letter here that I am going to read that after the second presentation we received a letter from Alderman Reiniger stating that the Traffic Committee again denied the request and reaffirmed the City's policy of not permitting the placement of signs for organizations other than those of a public or City nature. Before the third presentation to the Traffic Committee was made by Mr. McKay, our Assistant Director on January 5, 1999, Mr. Lolicata the Traffic Director is quoted in the record as saying "Mr. McKay has been trying for the last three years I think considering himself to be some type of school even though it is massage." As Mr. McKay was handing out the materials, Chairman Clancy asked off the record if the institute was a massage parlor to which Mr. McKay immediately responded no stating that it was a school of massage therapy. I understand that probably our public needs to be more aware and trained in what massage is today as a therapy. We are a school. We graduate massage therapists which is different than masseuses or masseurs. I am sure that most of you have at some point in time in your life needed massage to recover from an injury or from a pain or from a disease. Massage is now on the first list of the medical care and also is supposed to be approved for being on the insurance so people can go and have this therapy done at a lesser cost. We do not understand why other schools have signs and why we cannot have a sign. Our therapists, after they finish one year of going to school, the school is also approved by the Health Department, the therapists have

to pass a national exam in order to become massage therapists and then they can go to work and open their private practices. I also mentioned in my letter to you that massage therapy is a profession that requires hours of academic studies including anatomy, physiology, 150 hours of health service management, CPR, and first aid. These are a few of the courses required by the Health & Human Services and the Post-Secondary Education Commission for becoming eligible for state licenses. After licensure, our alumnae are qualified to work in hospitals, nursing homes, geriatric clinics, physical therapy facilities, pediatric clinics, sports centers and chiropractic and osteopathic clinics. The institute is recognized for its outstanding faculty who have studied at Dartmouth, Harvard and other reputable institutions receiving their degrees of MDDC, Ph.D. and RN's, etc. As an education provider, we request only what is actually a prerogative to similar institutes. We have seen signs for the University of New Hampshire. We have seen signs for different churches. We have seen signs everywhere and we just need to understand why we have been denied for the past two years.

Chairman Clancy asked are you a non-profit agency.

Ms. Minea-Grigore answered we are not a non-profit, Sir. This is my partner. This is the academic director and treasurer.

Mr. Duverger stated one of the benefits for not only the school but also the City of Manchester, is the Pearl Street parking lot adjacent to our building is occupied and they put brand new parking meters there and increased the cost of the meters. There are 160 students right now that are registered and paying \$5 to \$7 per day to use those as well as the seven employees we have at the school who are not teachers we pay \$30 per person to have them park every month. The use of the facilities around the City of Manchester is being utilized by these 160 students. Also, we have a massage therapy clinic where the general public can come to the clinic and receive massages. They are also parking and paying. I think we have generated probably \$200,000 for the City of Manchester just in the last four years alone. We have a website now with 60 pages. We are the largest school in New England and, in fact, people from Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont are coming to our facilities. In order to get more exposure for the City of Manchester and massage therapy and our institute, I think, would benefit everybody if we were to have more signage for those who are out of the general area. Approximately 60% of our students are from areas other than Manchester. There are very fine schools in Boston, Cambridge, and Worcester, MA and others but because of the caliber of our teachers and the size of our school, people are choosing to come to our school rather than go to a school in their own backyard.

Ms. Minea-Grigore stated we are approved by the INS for foreign students.

Chairman Clancy asked how many students get lost going to your school. You want the signs up and there has to be a purchase for it.

Mr. Duverger answered just getting off 101 was one place and one was off of 93; the major junctions coming into the city so they can roughly find out where we are and then they can ask somebody where the actual institute is. The University of New Hampshire has signs. Everybody knows where UNH is. Why do they have signs up? It is for the benefit of...maybe they think that massage therapy isn't quite what physical therapy is because they have a nursing program there.

Alderman Cashin stated this has nothing to do with whether it is massage therapy or not. This is a business, correct.

Mr. Duverger answered no, Sir, this is a school.

Alderman Cashin asked do you make a profit.

Ms. Minea-Grigore answered yes we do.

Alderman Cashin stated than it is a business.

Mr. Duverger asked is UNH a for profit organization, yes it is.

Alderman Cashin answered UNH is run by a Board of Trustees subsidized by the State of New Hampshire.

Mr. Duverger asked what about the Institute of Arts.

Alderman Cashin answered they are a non-profit organization.

Ms. Minea-Grigore asked so if you do have some stated policies in regard to this, we never received in three years anything that it was on the record. Anything that would state these are our rules and we cannot make any exceptions. That is all we need.

Alderman Cashin answered it is within the responsibility of this Committee to make those rules, okay. Now you will agree that this is a business?

Ms. Minea-Grigore answered yes.

Alderman Cashin stated and you are making a profit. Now UNH is not a business. UNH is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Art Institute is a non-profit organization. You mentioned the Franco-American Institute. That is a non-profit organization. There is no comparison in my mind between what you people do and, I am sure you run a very good business, I am sure you do and I wish you the best of luck but there is no comparison between what you do and these others that you are representing.

Ms. Minea-Grigore replied that would be fine but in 1996 when we wrote this letter to Mr. Reiniger and we wrote a letter to Mr. Bernier, if you would have sent us a copy with these rules, but every time we receive a letter it states that we don't want to open another Pandora's box. This means that these decisions are made as you go.

Mr. Lolicata stated first of all, I know what kind of school you are. There was no misdemeanor in my comments. I have known him for a few years. What you are requesting...you are not the only one who has been turned down over the last three years. We just turned down a school. Back in 1996, this gentleman came to us and we started talking about this thing. I told him how lately the City has stopped putting up these signs for different reasons. One of those reasons is there are too many signs and people are getting confused. These other people who do have signs, those go back as far as 20 years. NH College and the Currier Gallery of Art. Those have been up for a long time. This Committee has stopped it the last three years. I don't want you getting the wrong intention out of this Committee. You (Mr. Duverger) and I know each other very well and you know that I know what kind of school you are and you know where I am coming from.

Mr. Duverger stated well we are a school and we also became a non-profit, I did change the Class C Corporation, which we are to a non-profit. I was given that opportunity because we were a school at the beginning. I can change it. It will cost another \$1,500.

Mr. Lolicata replied basically what it comes down to is there are other schools that do fine work and will be asking for signs. The Catholic church can ask for signs. If they do, we have no place to put them. Do you understand where we are coming from? We started taking action three or four years ago to calm this thing down and come to almost a stop unless it is an emergency like a grandfathered clause or the Red Cross or something. It is nothing against you people. I hope you understand that.

Alderman Cashin stated I think what Mr. Lolicata is saying, and I agree, this is nothing personal but if we don't stop somewhere, if we put up every sign that we were asked to put up, Manchester, NH would look like one big billboard. We

have got to make certain decisions and we decided in this case that we did not want to post the signs and that is our prerogative. That is our responsibility. It is not our prerogative; it is our responsibility to make those decisions. I hope you understand that. It certainly isn't personal.

Mr. Duverger stated Governor Shaheen just last year...I mean we are going through a lot of transitions and massage therapy is becoming mainstream and proper and professional.

Alderman Cashin replied no one is questioning your professionalism.

Mr. Duverger responded just last year Governor Shaheen agreed to make a national week of massage therapy. Maybe we can get signs outside the City of Manchester or instead of putting the words School of Massage Therapy, put NEIWH --Institute of Whole Health. Maybe the terminology can be changed. Is there anything we can do to have the Committee allow us to do this.

Alderman Cashin replied I cannot speak for the Committee, I can only speak for myself but I will not support any type of signs.

Ms. Minea-Grigore stated if you have anything in writing that we can take this further from this point, I would appreciate anything you can give me on how you made this decision, when you made this decision and based on what. If we can have this in writing then we can proceed and go to court or whatever. We need to have an answer on this thing.

Chairman Clancy replied we are going to have the City Clerk check the minutes of previous meetings in previous years and if we come up with something, we will gladly send you what we found.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I know that when I have been getting off some highway exits there are some for profit signs on the highway and you can ask the DOT to put your sign as people are coming off of the highway. That is the State of NH. Some of the highway exits, you can get a sign on the highway. You have to go to the State Department of Transportation in Concord.

Mr. Duverger stated we are trying to work with the City of Manchester and I recommend to every student that if they are going to be more than three days per week at the school they purchase a parking permit. There is revenue built from this school. I had a request from the people who own Fleet Bank right across the street saying hey do you want to work with us. We will charge you so much per month. Instead of having your students park here and pay 50 cents for the first hour and then 25 cents for every additional hour for five or six hours we will give

them a space over there. I am trying to work financially with the City of Manchester.

Chairman Clancy replied we are just trying to make this on an even keel here so everyone is on the same page.

Ms. Minea-Grigore responded that is fine as long as we have an answer from you so we know what direction we have to go in. We are fine with that.

Chairman Clancy stated we are trying to abide by the rules that have already been made.

Ms. Minea-Grigore replied it is just a little difficult for us to understand when the comments were made. Mr. McKay, our assistant, was very insulted and he is a former monk, when someone here asked him are you a massage parlor. No we are not a massage parlor and I would really invite you all to come to our fine massage therapy clinic. We know what your decision is going to be here. We know that we are going to be denied and that is fine with us as long as you promise that you are going to send us the documentation.

Chairman Clancy responded the Clerk is going to look up the minutes of the previous meetings and if we find anything, we will gladly send it to you.

Ms. Minea-Grigore stated I would appreciate it. I would ask you to take our invitation of coming to our clinic on 22 Bridge Street.

Alderman Cashin stated this has nothing to do with the fact that you may or not be a massage school or whatever. It is unfortunate, but we have got to make certain decisions.

Alderman Cashin moved to deny the request for signage.

Chairman Reiniger asked, Mr. Lolicata, how far back does the policy go. Ten years for the non-profits versus profits?

Alderman Cashin answered I am not sure there is a policy on it.

Mr. Lolicata stated this Committee practiced that for a long time and they stopped awhile back. I couldn't tell you. They have been calming down quite a bit in the last few years.

Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. Chairman Clancy called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Cashin stated so that you understand this is a recommendation that goes to the full Board to be voted on. All we do is make a recommendation to the full Board.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee