

## COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC

**November 14, 2000**

**6:15 PM**

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Sysyn, Vaillancourt, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Pariseau

Messrs: B. Thomas, T. Lolicata, F. Thomas, R. Chance, M. Pelletier

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Informational communications from Lt. Tracy regarding speed surveys on Porter Street, Bosse Ave., Island Pond Rd., Rochelle Ave. and Campbell Street.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Christmas Parade Committee requesting no parking on Elm Street and closure of Elm Street for the annual Christmas parade on November 26, 2000 (alternate weather date November 27).

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to approve the request.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Grace Church Property Committee requesting signs in the Right of Ways in five locations.

Mr. Thomas stated this sign I am holding up is very similar to the sign that we are asking for.

Chairman Clancy asked where did you get that sign.

Mr. Thomas answered I took it down from the church yesterday. It does look kind of big when I am standing next to it. I took a picture that shows the locations so that you can see it really doesn't look as big as it does when I am standing next to it.

Chairman Clancy asked did I read that the sign is 24' x 30'.

Mr. Thomas answered yes and it meets the regulation of the Traffic Department. I have the five locations listed. The only difference with this sign is we will have the address of the church down here.

Chairman Clancy asked, Mr. Lolicata, I know these are all non-profit organizations and stuff but do we let everybody do this.

Mr. Lolicata answered we have been doing churches for years but that is about it. We had put a moratorium on most of these things. I think so far we have stuck with churches. We have not gone beyond that.

Chairman Clancy stated I know that we had a request about six months ago from someone else.

Mr. Lolicata asked, Mr. Thomas, are these all new locations. I gave him the information and if you approve it we will have to charge them and we will take care of that but as far as the church signs are concerned, those are the only ones that the Committee has allowed. The other non-profits like the blood bank and the American Red Cross are automatics. Anything brand new is up to you.

Alderman Hirschmann asked is there a uniform size and stake that you use, Tom. Is this bigger than normal?

Mr. Lolicata answered that is the maximum. That is the largest you can go.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked is there any cost to the City to do this.

Mr. Lolicata answered the bill is given to these people. We charge them for the labor and the stakes. After that, if anything has to be replaced, they are responsible to take care of it.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so there is no cost.

Mr. Lolicata answered there is, but it is sent to them.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the request.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Oak Brook Condominium Association regarding traffic concerns on Route 3A (Front Street) in the vicinity of Hackett Hill Road.

Mr. Thomas stated we reviewed the concerns by Oak Brook. There is a possibility during peak times that there could be some interruptions or blocking their access out of their site, especially going in the southbound direction. That plans that were developed with the timing on the signals has been reviewed by the State, however, we have submitted the concerns that were outlined in that correspondence to the State asking them to take a look at it again. They, quite frankly, have more expertise in signal design than the City Highway Department even though they had reviewed it and okayed it once before. They are going to take a second look at it. We feel there is that potential, but we don't think that it is going to be too bad because northbound traffic will be allowed to flow at least over 2/3 the cycle time of the lights at that intersection so there shouldn't be any blocking from the northbound traffic. The potential for blocking the entrance/exit would be from the left turn up Hackett Hill during that peak time. There is a concern and we are going to look at it. We are going to try to minimize it based on whatever recommendations come back from the State. Once the signals are implemented, we do have the flexibility to modify the timing and the paving to minimize any impact. We do share to an extent their concerns, but we are looking into it.

Alderman Hirschmann stated Frank where are we with this project. Did the State approve it 100% yet?

Mr. Thomas replied the State has approved it. The major delay has been in ordering the mast arms. There is a nine month lead time on that. That has been done. The project is pretty much a go at this point.

Alderman Hirschmann asked but we haven't done any site work or anything yet have we.

Mr. Thomas answered no, not yet.

Chairman Clancy asked are any of these condominium complexes paying any money for these lights.

Mr. Thomas answered no. The majority of the funds are from the State. I don't know exactly...I think it is 80% State funds because that is a State road.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from The Riverstone Group advising of traffic and speed problems on Commercial Street, requesting crosswalks be installed.

Alderman Sysyn stated I agree with using that instead of Canal Street. They should have a crosswalk.

Mr. Lolicata stated we have talked a little bit about this once. Down in that area, all of Commercial Street as a matter of fact, we thought we had slowed traffic down with the new parking. This was the first complaint we got from a company down there. I would say taking a guess that it is most likely southbound because of parallel parking they are probably moving a little faster. Putting crosswalks out there isn't going to slow cars down. First of all, it is enforcement. Second of all, I don't want to put a crosswalk in any location unless I take a good look at it and see where they are going to be placed. It has to be at an intersection first of all. I don't want to put people out in the middle of the road down toward that end. I will look into it. We can't get them in this year, that is for sure. I will look for an area where we can put in crosswalks that may be missing down there. Outside of that, I think it is an enforcement issue.

Chairman Clancy asked are there any crosswalks down there right now.

Mr. Lolicata answered we have crosswalks down there on South Commercial all the way down. I guess they want an additional crosswalk in their area, which I will look into.

Chairman Clancy recognized Robert Chance.

Mr. Chance stated I am an Assistant Vice President with The Riverfront Group. What we are looking for is not only crosswalks...there are crosswalks there but they are not properly marked. No one driving down that streets knows there are crosswalks. The other issue you have on Commercial is I challenge you to find a speed limit sign. There is not a speed limit sign from Granite to Canal and back. That is part of our problem. The other part of our problem is we are looking at...if you need to you have to slow it. They are doing 50 mph to 60 mph. They are

cutting people off. They are going around people. We have had one accident with one of our employees with a City vehicle that tried to pass on the right as the person was turning right into a parking spot.

Chairman Clancy asked a City vehicle.

Mr. Chance answered yes. They had to stop. They broadsided them. We have had instances with another young lady who was turning left into the Waumbec building and someone went around her on the left in the same direction she was going. They could not wait for her to turn left into the parking lot. I have gotten numerous complaints from all of our employees and we are going to be about 175 employees by the end of this year that they can't get across the street.

Chairman Clancy stated welcome to the City and we will see if we can help you out.

Mr. Chance replied I understand that. We are from Chicago originally so we expect that but at least in Chicago you have street lights and different things. What we would also like to see down there is there are a couple of places you could put in three-way stop signs.

Chairman Clancy responded we will have to look at that. We will have Mr. Lolicata put some speed limit signs down there and have Sgt. Winn put a speed trap down there. What time would you say this happens?

Mr. Chance replied you need to do this between 6:30 - 8 AM and 3:30-5:00 PM. If you are going to come down, come down with an unmarked car. The speed limit down there should be 25 mph or 30 mph and if you are doing 30 mph, someone is on your bumper basically giving you the finger because you are not going fast enough. It is very dangerous and we have an issue because our employees are concerned about crossing the street. We don't want someone getting killed.

Chairman Clancy recognized Marlene Stewart.

Ms. Stewart stated there are so many people coming into our offices every day and as Bob was saying we arrive early in the morning and are here very late. 5 PM is not a good ending. I come out at 6:30 PM and it takes me anywhere from 5 to 8 minutes to get across the street and then I have to run because no one is slowing down.

Chairman Clancy asked Tom Lolicata to get together with Mr. Chance after the meeting. We will put some signage down there and we will have the Police Department go down there with their radar gun.

Mr. Chance answered thank you. If you could get some signs down there to let people know that the crosswalks are there and they should slow down, that would help.

Sgt. Winn stated what I would like to do is next week we will put a speed survey machine down there and that will give us a vibe on the traffic and let us know what time the speeding is occurring and then we can send some guys down to do some enforcement after that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated it seems to me, Tom, that we paid a consultant a lot of money to design angled parking down on that street and it only seems common sense that once they designed angled parking that on the other side of the street from where the businesses are that there would be crosswalks involved in the study. Who dropped the ball? I have parked in those angled spaces and tried to cross the street and go into that Waumbec building and I almost got killed just like she almost got killed.

Mr. Lolicata stated when they developed down there, there were already crosswalks there.

Alderman Hirschmann replied I know that you paid someone money, a private company, to come up with a Millyard design and it should include crosswalks. That is all I have to say.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to refer this item to the Traffic and Police Departments for resolution.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Communication from Chief of Police regarding motor vehicle driver awareness and violation enforcement.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Petition signed by 189 residents of Wards 8 and 9 requesting that the plan pertaining to Frontage Road be removed from consideration.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I think it should be removed from consideration. Alderman Pariseau is not here. He is not here so out of deference to him maybe we should wait.

Chairman Clancy asked if you want to wait we can wait and if you want to move to put it back the way it was, we can do that.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I don't think it has been changed. I think it was just considered.

Mr. Lolicata stated I think in one of those public meetings that we had we agreed that we weren't going to put anything on Frontage Road because we affected the neighborhood on the other side. The rest of it is still up for grabs right now. We are still talking about Gold Street and Ross Avenue. I think Frontage Road has been dropped because of all of the people who were affected by it.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so basically it has been removed.

Mr. Lolicata answered basically it has been removed as far as Mr. MacKenzie and I are concerned.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

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

**RESCIND NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS – TOW ZONE**  
**On Douglas Northback St., north side, from Main St. to Douglas St.**  
**Alderman Thibault**

**RESCIND NO PARKING DURING SCHOOL HOURS**  
**On Celeste St. both sides, from South Porter St. to Rockwell St.**  
**Alderman Vaillancourt**

**RESCIND PARKING ½ HOUR 8AM-6PM**

On Conant St., south side, from West St. to a point 65 feet westerly  
Alderman Thibault

**RESCIND PARKING ¼ HOUR**

On Maple St., east side, from Merrimack St. to Merrimack Northback St.  
Alderman Sysyn

**RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE**

On West St., west side, from a point 20 feet south of Conant St. to a point 25 feet southerly  
Alderman Thibault

**RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE 8AM-9PM**

On Orange St., north side, from a point 140 feet west of Union St. to a point 75 feet westerly  
Alderman Levasseur

**RESCIND ONE HOUR PARKING 8AM-6PM**

On Chestnut St., west side, from North St. to Salmon St.  
Alderman Levasseur

**RESCIND PARKING 2 HOUR 8AM-6PM**

On West St., west side, from a point 45 feet south of Conant St. to a point 65 feet north of Douglas St.  
Alderman Thibault

**RESCIND ½ HOUR PARKING 8AM-6PM**

On Dubuque St., west side, from Putnam St. to a point 60 feet southerly  
Alderman Thibault

**RESCIND NO PARKING – UNLIMITED**

On Riley Ave., east side, from a point 475 feet north of Young St. to a point 60 feet northerly  
Alderman Shea

**NO PARKING ANYTIME**

On Douglas Northback St., north side, from Main St. to Douglas St.  
Alderman Thibault

On Lingard St. south side, from S. Willow St. to point 200 feet westerly  
Alderman Pariseau

On Jane St., east side, from Lowell St. to a point 80 feet northerly  
Alderman Sysyn

**On Lowell St., north side, from Jane St. to point 60 feet easterly  
Alderman Sysyn**

**On Union St., west side, from Lowell St. to a point 100 feet northerly  
Alderman Sysyn**

**On South Maple St., east side, from Brunelle Ave. to a point 65 feet northerly  
Alderman Pariseau**

**On Tilton St., east side, from Milford St. to Card St.  
Alderman Cashin**

**NO PARKING ANYTIME**

**On Lake Ave., south side, from a point 85 feet west of Hall St. to a point 100  
feet westerly  
Alderman Clancy**

**On Dixwell St., both sides, from Whalley Rd. to Riverbank rd.  
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**On Prospect Northback St., south side, from Elm Eastback St. to a point 40  
feet easterly  
Alderman Levasseur**

**On Old Hackett Hill Road, both sides, from Front Street to the dead end  
Alderman Hirschmann**

**NO PARKING HANDICAP**

**On Joliette Street, east side, from Kelley Street to a point 40 feet northerly  
Alderman Hirschmann**

**NO PARKING LOADING ZONE**

**On Cedar St., north side, from a point 90 feet east of Union St. to a point 60  
feet easterly  
Alderman Clancy**

**On Conant St., south side, from West St. to a point 50 feet westerly  
Alderman Thibault**

**On Lake Ave., north side, from a point 60 feet east of Hall St. to a point 25  
feet easterly  
Alderman Clancy**

**On Mead St., north side, from a point 145 feet west of Belmont St., to a point 25 feet westerly  
Alderman Sysyn**

**NO PARKING LOADING ZONE 8AM-9PM**

**On Orange St., north side, from a point 175 feet west of Union St. to a point 40 feet westerly  
Alderman Levasseur**

**PARKING ½ HOUR 8AM-6PM**

**On Conant St., south side, from a point 50 feet west of West St. to a point 20 feet westerly  
Alderman Thibault**

**PARKING ¼ HOUR 8AM-11PM**

**On Maple St., east side, from Merrimack St. to Monadnock Lane  
Alderman Sysyn**

**PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-6PM**

**On West St., west side, from Conant St. to a point 65 feet north of Douglas St.  
Alderman Thibault**

**On Chestnut St., west side, from North St. to Salmon St.  
Alderman Levasseur**

**PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-6PM METERS**

**Pearl Lot, west side, from the south end of the lot northerly for a total of 23 meters (emergency act)  
Alderman Levasseur**

**RESCIND PARKING 10 HOURS METERS**

**Pearl St., west side, from the south end of the lot northerly for a total of 23 meters  
Alderman Levasseur**

**ONE WAY STREET**

**Douglas Northback St. from Main St. to Douglas St. eastbound  
Alderman Thibault**

**Allen St. from Boynton St. to South Main St., eastbound  
Alderman Cashin**

**Balch Ave., from S. Main St. to Boynton St., westbound  
Alderman Cashin**

**RESCIND ONE WAY STREET**

**On Balch Ave. from Boynton St. to S. Main St., eastbound  
Alderman Cashin**

**Hanover Court, from Hanover St. to Amherst St., northbound  
Alderman Sysyn**

**STOP SIGNS**

**On Balch Ave., at Boynton St., nec, sec  
On Allen St. at S. Main St., nwc, swc  
Alderman Cashin**

**On the Chestnut St. entrance at Pine Lot, swc  
Alderman Levasseur**

**On Hanover Court at Hanover St., nwc  
Alderman Sysyn**

**On Pickering St. at Smyth Rd., nwc  
Alderman Gatsas**

**On Perimeter Rd., on the island for southbound left turn at Perimeter Rd.,  
nec  
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**NO U TURN**

**On Perimeter Rd. at Perimeter Rd., southbound  
Alderman Vaillancourt**

**RESCIND STOP SIGN**

**On Balch Ave. at S. Main St. nwc, swc  
On Allen St. at Boynton St. nec  
Alderman Cashin**

**On Glenwood Ave. at Patterson, nec, swc  
Alderman Cashin**

**RESCIND YIELD SIGN**

**On Massabesic St. at Hall St., nec, sec  
Alderman Clancy**

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to accept the traffic agenda.

## **TABLED ITEMS**

11. Communication from Mike Pelletier relative to the current practice of towing vehicles during declared snow emergencies.

On motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Chairman Clancy recognized Mike Pelletier.

Mr. Pelletier stated I was thinking of a brainstorming session to discuss how we can reduce the 200 to 300 vehicles that are towed during a snow emergency. I make trips up to Ottawa and Montreal for business and I know they do a lot of unique things like putting up signs, even temporary signs, in the snowbanks saying your car will be towed if it is still here in an hour and a half or two hours. Notification to the residents along the routes that typically get more than their fair share of towing is also a good idea. I know that I live on Green Acres Drive in Ward 6 and I don't think we have ever had a car towed there. I was just hoping that there might be some way...I threw out a couple of suggestions to come up with a way to save some of the grief, the pain, the money, time and resources that some people have to spend on this issue.

Chairman Clancy replied let me tell you one thing. Say we have a good storm of 6-8" and we have cars parked in the street and we don't give them a ticket and we go around them then people will say that the Highway Department did a lousy job plowing. My contention is if somebody is parked on the street and we announce it in the paper and we have it on TV, etc. that is fair enough. Why should we give them an excuse to stay out in the street? I am for towing these cars that are out in the street in a snow emergency. The radio stations and TV all alert people that a snow emergency is in effect. I think that will just add more work for the Highway Department. Maybe Frank Thomas has something to say about that.

Mr. Thomas stated based on Mr. Pelletier's correspondence to us, we did review many of the issues that were raised. We discussed with the Police Department the issue of running sirens at night and whatnot. We pretty much determined that we shouldn't be penalizing people who are abiding by the policies by waking them up with that type of action. The other issues that were raised we also discussed and ruled out. However, what we have done this year different than in the past is we have sent out notices to every property owner in the City of Manchester who receives a water and sewer bill. On one side of the notice it explains the odd/even parking and on the other side of the notice it explains the snow emergency procedures. In addition, I appeared on Alderman Pinard's show last week on the

local cable station to try to again emphasize these two restrictions that go into effect in the winter months. As you stated, our primary concern is to get the streets opened up and cleaned as quickly as possible. I think the message that we want to try to pass on to the residents of Manchester or people coming into the City is that if snow is predicted, they should consider that there is going to be a snow emergency. We do notify about 20 different media. We attempt to give 10-12 hours notice. If there is any chance that we have a situation where we feel that towing the vehicles for a snow emergency might be required, we give that notice. If the storm doesn't materialize, we just don't tow. The procedures that have been established are not something that has been thought up overnight. We have a detailed snow operation plan. That snow operation plan is revised every year. We talk to other municipalities to see how they handle this situation. Quite frankly, I personally feel our overall snow operation for the amount of equipment and personnel involved is superior to most municipalities in the State. We will be glad to review any of Mr. Pelletier's suggestions, however, signage is very expensive. You would have to put in permanent signs throughout the City. Temporary signs don't work. We use temporary signs when we call special snow emergencies when streets are getting narrow and we are removing snow.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked when you tow a car, where do you tow it to.

Mr. Thomas answered we have a car impoundment area. In the past it has been located in the Singer parking lot at the end of Commercial Street.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated the City of Montreal has been mentioned. From personal experience, I have had my car towed there. I parked in front of the theatre one evening and I wondered why there were all of these vacant spaces there so I came out and my car was gone. Do you know where my car was? Just down the block. So I had to pay the fine, but it was a minimal fine and my car wasn't towed halfway across the City. They just towed my car out of the way so they could plow where I was and towed it a couple of blocks down the street. Is that something you might consider to alleviate the headaches? It would be a headache, but not a migraine.

Mr. Thomas replied quite frankly, it is not efficient.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated it must work in Montreal.

Mr. Thomas asked were they removing snow or plowing snow.

Alderman Vaillancourt answered they plow and remove.

Mr. Thomas stated if you are removing snow, I can see doing it because you have the equipment and you are loading the snow into a truck and you are just pulling the vehicle back and down the street to where it has been removed already, but if you are plowing you are trying to keep roads open, you are trying to keep roads pushed back to have a plow standing by as you are pulling a vehicle down the street or up the street is just not efficient. Quite frankly, I will look into it but you were probably caught in a snow removal operation in their downtown area and that is the way they particularly handle it. Again, towing a car from the Elm Street area or the downtown area to South Commercial Street is not a long tow. The wreckers bid it out so it is a bid type towing fee.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked do people know where they are being towed to.

Mr. Thomas answered notices are given out. If a person's vehicle is towed, they call the Police Department or Highway Department and they are told exactly where to go and how to retrieve the vehicle.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated not necessarily for the towing, but I have always had a problem when the first of December there is no snow and no sign of snow yet I am getting a ticket...I haven't had one for a couple of years but I used to get them. I think it is absurd for the Police to come and give out tickets when we can't stop people from speeding on the streets of Manchester yet the Police are out there the first week of this odd and even business and giving out tickets when there is no sign of snow. This is a little different matter from this, but it is a problem of enforcement that is really absurd.

Chairman Cashin replied that is not a matter for us to take up. That is a Police matter.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated it could be a matter for us because we could have a new ordinance that says we are not going to ticket unless there is snowplowing.

Mr. Thomas replied that is not the only reason for the odd/even parking. One of the reasons for the odd/even parking is when snowbanks develop over the winter months and the streets get narrower, especially at night, we want to see parking restricted to only one side so that emergency vehicles can go through. In addition during the snow storm it gives us the ability to go out and work on those other sides of the streets, pushing the snow back and cutting ice if necessary.

Alderman Vaillancourt responded I don't think you understood my comment. My comment was the first week that this was in effect and there were no snowstorms whatsoever, they were out giving tickets that very first week. We might not get snow until January.

Mr. Thomas replied that is correct, but unfortunately there seems to be a learning curve with any of these regulations or ordinances placed into effect. What we are trying to do, quite frankly, is condition the residents of Manchester to start abiding by the laws that are on the books when they are prescribed to go into effect. We could have a major blizzard next week.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated by contention is it is easy to have people abide by laws when they are reasonable. It is not reasonable to have somebody ticketed for a snow violation when there hasn't been any snow and there may not be any snow for another month. We should start enforcing the snow violation when, in fact, there is snow and not before then. That is why laws are broken because they are made to be unreasonable and if you are trying to condition people you ought to condition them with reasonable laws.

Chairman Clancy stated these are the laws and we are going to abide by them.

Mr. Pelletier stated I am just happy that two out of the seven suggestions I made were adopted. That is a pretty good percentage. I will take it and maybe we can work on one or two more in the upcoming months to help make it a more reasonable proposition for those constituents who are not as knowledgeable as the rest of us.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 12 of the agenda:

Communication from Intown Manchester regarding concerns with  
"handicapped" hanging placards or plates in metered locations.  
(Tabled 10/3/00)

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Sgt. Winn stated at your direction, we looked into this matter with Tom Lolicata, Carol Williams, a representative from ADA, Rich Davis from Intown Manchester, Tom Arnold from the City Solicitor's Office and Carol Johnson and we had a meeting to discuss the issues. What we came up with was to limit the metered

parking for handicap folks to three hours in an area that was designated to be downtown. Our hope was by doing that that we would eliminate any potential abuse that is occurring with the system and also to create turnover for our merchants downtown in terms of parking spaces. That is what we came up with. What we suggested was that we would not like to see this implemented until April so that we can get the word out through the media and gradually phase this thing in.

Chairman Clancy stated so from what I read in the packet, here is how it stands. If a person has a placard they can only park for three hours instead of all day long.

Sgt. Winn replied at a meter, that is correct.

Chairman Clancy asked are they going to have poles designed for handicapped. Is that three hours too?

Sgt. Winn answered according to what the Committee recommended, if a space was already designated for a handicapped person, that being painted on the street with a sign posted for handicapped parking, we would not put a restriction on that but that would be up to the Committee.

Chairman Clancy asked how many of those do we have throughout the City.

Mr. Lolicata replied I couldn't guess because now we have them in all of the parking lots by law. I will say it is over 30.

Chairman Clancy asked are there more than enough.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes. We abide by the law. If there are so many spaces, you have to have so many handicapped spaces.

Alderman Hirschmann asked if someone has a handicapped placard on their windshield and they pull into a metered space, they do or they don't pay.

Sgt. Winn answered currently they are allowed to park free in a meter or in a City parking space for unlimited time, but under State law towns and municipalities are allowed to put some time limits on that.

Chairman Hirschmann asked could a decal be made for all meter heads so that these people know what the law is.

Sgt. Winn answered that is part of the package that is being presented.

Chairman Clancy stated this is going to take effect next April. The boundary lines are going to be from Harrison on the north, Auburn on the south, Merrimack River on the west and Union Street on the east.

Sgt. Winn replied that is correct. There is another section to this proposal to increase the fine amount for a violation. I want to tell you that at the meeting we received a proposal to go from \$50 to \$250.

Chairman Clancy stated that is for someone who is using somebody else's placard and not handicapped themselves. Is that what you are talking about?

Sgt. Winn replied correct. We are talking about people who are fraudulently using placards. That is already in the State law so there is no need for a change in the ordinance. What we are asking is that we keep the ordinance where it is at for a \$50 fine for a violation.

Chairman Clancy asked what about if you get somebody who is not entitled to use the placard but is using it. There should be a stiffer fine for that.

Sgt. Winn answered that is a \$250 fine and that is under the Motor Vehicle Code. It is not a City ordinance.

Alderman Hirschmann asked so if somebody is in that space for 3 hours and 15 minutes, they are getting a \$50 fine.

Chairman Clancy answered no. They will get a parking ticket. If I am not handicapped and I use a placard, that is illegal. They are going to charge me \$250. That is fraudulence. I hope we can get the word out about this.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the recommendations.

13. Request for loading zone at 1228 Elm Street.  
(Tabled 7/2000)

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Chairman Clancy stated I got a call from Mr. Snow of Mental Health and he advised me that every day they do take patients in at 1228 Elm Street and they would like to have the first two spots next to Kidder Street marked reserved because they take patients in and out. They currently have to double park and they don't want people going in between traffic. I think that is a good idea.

Mr. Lolicata replied I thought we already did that.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to make the first two parking spots next to Kidder Street a loading zone.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so they may use this for five minutes a day and we are going to make it so nobody can use it for 23 hours a day.

Mr. Lolicata answered it is a loading zone and can be used by anybody. Brady-Sullivan has been getting so many people double parking out there with their deliveries as well. There is a problem there.

14. Communication from Planning Director to Richard Davis recommending an alternative to a request for the discontinuance of Hampshire Lane between Stark and Mechanic Streets.  
(Tabled 10/3/00)

This item remained on the table.

15. **NEW CROSSWALK**  
On Lowell St. East of Union Street  
On Lowell St. west of Union St.  
On Union St. north of Lowell St.  
On Union St. south of Lowell St.  
Alderman Sysyn  
(Tabled 10/3/00)

This item remained on the table.

16. Petition for reduced speed limit to 15 miles per hour on Kimball Street in the vicinity of Kelley Falls Housing Development.  
(Tabled 9/5/00)

This item remained on the table.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Communication from Intown Manchester requesting the following streets be closed or traffic reduced to one lane on November 30 and December 7 from 5-7PM for "Hayrides with Santa".

Closed:

Franklin, between Market and Pleasant Streets

A portion of Market Street between the alley at 88 Market St. and Franklin St.

The alley running beside 88 Market Street (known as Strange Brew Restaurant) from Market St. to Middle St.

A portion of Middle Street from the alley to Franklin St.

A portion of W. Merrimack St. between Franklin St. and Elm St.

Reduced to one lane:

Elm St. between W. Merrimack St. and Pleasant St. heading south

Pleasant St. to Franklin St., heading west

Mr. Lolicata stated I don't have any problems with this. The only concern I have is that is one big tree and I hope it is put in correctly. That is probably one of the windiest spots in the City. I don't know who is putting this in, but I hope it is done with great care.

Alderman Hirschmann stated on a Thursday night...look at the route there. You are going on Elm Street.

Chairman Clancy replied it says here that for the two events they are requesting that the following streets be closed or traffic reduced to one lane. It is going to be a couple of horses and a sleigh.

Sgt. Winn stated I think it is going to be something similar to the hayrides that they have at the Farmer's Market. I would be glad to talk to Stephanie and see what we can work out for police coverage.

Alderman Hirschmann asked are we going to notify the businesses. If you look at that route, that whole parking lot, what if there was a Planning Board meeting or something that night. That is a City parking lot. Before you rush to approve this, nobody has done any homework. You should send notices to people who will be affected.

Alderman Sysyn stated the Planning Board might be meeting on December 7.

Clerk Bernier stated I will send a letter from this Committee telling Intown that they have to notify the abutters.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve the request.

Communication from Granite Systems, Inc., a software development firm that currently occupies two and a half floors of the renovated Brady-Sullivan building at 1228 Elm Street requesting a pedestrian cone be installed at the center of Elm Street at the Pearl Street crosswalk to alert drivers of the responsibility of the motor vehicle laws to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Mr. Lolicata stated I have spoken with the woman who wrote the letter originally. I went to the Mayor's Office and got a copy. In speaking with her, what we are going to try and do is enhance the crosswalk. I will put hash marks in for her. Jane Hill got the original correspondence. What these cones are, Mr. Chairman...you have to realize that somebody has to sign on these things from the State. It is a State liability. Now I have already done that for three of them in the City and those three are gone right now. The ones we purchased. I don't want to start buying these cones and putting them in the middle of the street. If somebody wants to do this, they can go to the State and sign their name for liability. These things here have been damaged, stolen, and broken. They are in the middle of the street and I am afraid of liability. We are going to try and do something with the crosswalk at this time.

Chairman Clancy asked do you have any cones left.

Mr. Lolicata answered I have all three of them and they are all damaged.

Chairman Clancy stated well they were left out at night time and people couldn't see them. Those things are supposed to be put out early in the morning and taken down at night time. Nobody did that.

Mr. Lolicata replied the people at the stores did that. One of them lasted two days. It was stolen in broad daylight. The other one was damaged and hit by kids coming down the street on purpose. If something goes wrong, we are liable for this.

Chairman Clancy asked what about the two on Mammoth Road by the golf course.

Mr. Lolicata answered that was done by Parks & Recreation. They must have gone through the State. That is wide 50' street up there. They called me to fix one of them. Before I get engaged in this, I wish we would nip this in the bud right now and make it a law in Manchester that we don't use them. I am really afraid of liability with these things.

Chairman Clancy stated but I am also concerned about slowing the traffic down because we want people in the City to be able to cross the street.

Mr. Lolicata replied I would recommend that the person wanting them will take the responsibility. We can have the City Solicitor look into signing for them and paying for them. They cost \$38/piece.

Chairman Clancy stated I want to keep the pedestrians safe.

Mr. Lolicata stated well the woman I talked to was satisfied with the answer I gave them. After that, it is called enforcement. If a car doesn't stop for a person in the middle of the street, there is something wrong.

Alderman Hirschmann stated this isn't just the Traffic Committee, it is the Public Safety Committee too. The problem we have up on North Elm Street is it is a very wide main thorough fare. There is no angled parking up there. Downtown the traffic is moving a lot slower now that we have the angled parking. Up there, that is where they open the throttle it seems and those people are looking for some safety. I am all for whatever they want to do. Let's just give them something.

Alderman Levasseur asked, Tom, would you be opposed if I brought in a recommendation to put angled parking from Hood Street up to where Brooks Drug is by Prospect or right where the Uptown Restaurant is. That is really wide open there and I agree with everybody here that if we angle park all along there we would gain a lot of parking spots and we would slow down the traffic, which would cut down your crosswalks.

Mr. Lolicata answered I would most likely go against you. We have enough downtown now as it is. The idea of doing it north of that...we have to keep some traffic moving. People are avoiding Elm Street right now and using Chestnut. You know that. If you start doing angled parking south and north of that, I think you are going to have a lot more traffic on the other streets. I think enough is enough.

Alderman Levasseur stated I know that in front of Charley Pepper's they could use a lot of parking over in that area and don't you like the revenue. You are going to be getting a lot more revenue, I would think, with the civic center because they will come from that area and walk down.

Mr. Lolicata replied that is another reason I am against it. By having four lanes up there and at the south end, you will be getting these people out at night. You have to move these people. I am not saying speeding, I am saying moving. It is at the point now where you will slow them down even more if you keep going north and south with this thing. Pretty soon you will have Chestnut and Canal all jammed. You have to have some movement somewhere.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I am of the opposite opinion and this is why and maybe you could have Rich Davis come in and explain because the downtown is now an Intown district and that Intown district goes all the way up to Salmon Street or somewhere up there. Now why should that section of the Intown district be so much different than in front of City Hall? They expect the planter. They expect the waste can. We could have angled parking. If Granite Systems and a lot of big employers are putting people in our downtown, we could make a lot of revenue off of these new angled spaces.

Mr. Lolicata replied I am just giving you my opinion.

Alderman Levasseur stated Concord has a long street like ours and I would also say that especially over in front of Allen Bradley I know you want to move these people out but we also want them to use Canal Street more than we want them to use Elm Street. That is the whole idea of why we decided to cut this angle off from Bridge all the way down to Auburn. It is so wide in those areas that I don't even think you would have to narrow it down to two or three lanes with a middle lane for the Fire Department or whatever. I still think you could angle them because they are so wide in those areas and still get your four lanes in.

Mr. Lolicata stated you see the traffic at peak hours in the morning and night during the week and then you see the angled parking, which by the way I am not too keen about and neither is the State of NH. When it comes to parking they are not too keen on it either because it is more dangerous backing out that way then it is when you are parallel parking. Those are my views when it comes to safety also. I am also thinking of transporting people safely and liability and those are my three contentions right now.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion of Alderman Vaillancourt, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk