

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC

December 12, 2006

4:00 PM

Chairman Osborne called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Osborne, O'Neil, Shea, Roy, Long

Messrs.: K. Dillon, Lt. Hopkins, J. Hoben, F. Thomas, B. Stanley, T. Arnold,
Deputy Chief Lussier

Chairman Osborne stated what I would like to do is start with new business first.

Communication regarding the Aviation Museum signage.

Kevin Dillon, Airport Director, stated what I am requesting is that the Committee hopefully direct the Traffic Department to work with us down at the Airport to fabricate some signs that will serve as a trailblazer to the new Aviation Museum. These are signs that would be placed on property that is not operated by the Airport. It is City right-of-ways. The state is planning to put out signs on their right-of-ways, including Interstate 293 and this would certainly go a long way in assisting the public in finding the museum.

On motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to director the Traffic Department to work with the Airport to fabricate signs for the new Aviation Museum.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated the second item of new business is a discussion regarding the West High School area. Mrs. Richards, I believe, made a request.

Chairman Osborne stated we have a request here from Mrs. Richards. I have spoken to her in reference to Alderman Shea's request. This has to do with West High School. I also called Alderman Thibault and the School Board member from Ward 7. He was unable to make it here tonight. Somebody from West...is anybody here from West? I notified them also. I can go through it a little bit but first of all I am going to have Mrs. Richards present her situation here.

Mrs. Richards stated Alderman Shea I have to thank you for referring me to Alderman Osborne. You have always been a hero of mine. Thank you so much.

I called Alderman Shea last week and Alderman Osborne and discussed with them the traffic situation at West High School. My son, Matthew, attends West High School even though we live up by Memorial. He takes part in the autism support program over there. There is a group of students and a group of teachers who oversee these students and mainstream them into the classrooms as necessary or have them stay in the autism support room for studies during the day and he takes part in that program. One of the problems we are having is that in the morning, especially for children who are autistic and have a hard time getting around, it is difficult to get into the school area either bringing the students to the school or picking them up in the afternoon. Over here is Main Street and Conant Street goes up on the side of the school and this is the route the parents take in the morning. They come off of Main Street either from this direction or this direction. This is north right here. They go up Conant Street and turn onto the street directly in front of West High School. The main doors are over here. Often times you have cars backed up onto Main Street all the way over and parked in front of West High dropping off the kids. These cars are coming and going. They are not staying there. The buses will come in and there is an officer and a teacher who are posted to block this route right here so the parents can go up the street. The main door over here is where the kids go in. Lately instead of having the buses advance to the main door, they are parking in the middle of the street dropping off the students, which keeps these cars from being able to leave. They don't want to cut in front of the bus and you can't do that anyway because the red lights on the bus keep you from going through. So you get a traffic jam over here. If the buses could just move up and if they would allow the buses through, not the cars but just the buses, I think the situation might be resolved a little bit. It is a very congested area and there is no easy solution for it but I think this would help out in the morning. In the afternoon what is happening is people are coming on Main Street and there is such a traffic overflow that the cars are lined up all the way back to Granite Street where the construction is going on. Since the construction has lessened it has gotten a little bit better but there is a big back up at anywhere from 2 PM until 3:30 PM. What happens is you have this whole line of cars over here and they are all in the street and ready to go and everyone is anxious to go when they get their turn? There is a crosswalk for students over here. This is the drive that goes into the parking lot down below so right in front of West High School you have the main doors that come out, Main Street and there is a turn off to the parking lot where some of the students and teachers park. So at 2:30 PM when school lets out you have teachers coming out of the parking lot trying to get through and you have parents who are parked over on this side right here. There is usually five to six cars lined up in this area right here in front of the tennis courts and they won't move because they are there to pick up their kids. So you have the traffic coming from the lot coming up the hill and they have to go around the cars parked on the side and you have cars that are trying to get into the parking lot and you have four handicapped spaces up here. If you are parked in a handicapped

space, which is often my case because I am picking up Matthew, these cars that are coming up the hill are jammed up. They can't go onto Main Street because Main Street is so congested and they won't let you turn into the driveway to be able to get out of the space. I have spent as much as anywhere from ½ hour to 45 minutes trying to get out of my little space here to get out of the parking lot. When I get up the hill too I can't take a left hand turn because no one lets me in so it is another ½ hour to 45 minutes trying to take a left hand turn and often times what I do instead of waiting that amount of time if I have cars backed up in back of me blowing their horns like they do for everyone that is waiting at that corner, I will take a right hand turn, which forces me to go all the way down to Bridge Street and come up Bridge Street to Chestnut and go from Chestnut to Hanover and then over on Union Street down Union to Somerville and that is my route home where I could just as easily gone and taken a left on Main Street, gone over to Granite Street, taken Second Street and Queen City Bridge and I am home. It is a matter of 15 minutes going this way and 45 minutes getting home this way. Basically I am not sure what solution there could be in the afternoon but it seems that there is a traffic light maybe needed here where the parking lot comes out and there is a crosswalk for the kids. You hear cars breaking and screeching over here when the kids are crossing in the crosswalk because the cars are interested in going and not stopping for anybody or someone directing traffic. That is my presentation.

Chairman Osborne asked do you think it is going to be any better once the construction is all over with.

Mrs. Richards answered before the construction started this whole situation was still going on.

Chairman Osborne asked but it is worse now.

Mrs. Richards answered it is definitely much worse now because I think there is also a senior citizen center that has been added here and that just impacts the traffic dramatically. It used to be bad. Matthew is a sophomore and I have been driving over to West for two years now. It used to be bad last year but this year it is incredibly bad. It has gotten so bad you can't move. You are gridlocked.

Chairman Osborne stated I have spoken with you for quite awhile on the phone and I explained what I thought should be done and we are going to be looking into what I told you about letting them out 15 minutes earlier so you can get out in time and let the other people go. There might be a legal situation here.

Mrs. Richards responded that solution might be a good solution, however, it is just not me who is impacted. It is everybody else who is sitting in this traffic waiting

to go and trying to get where they are going. It is the hospital and the senior center and everyone else around there too.

Chairman Osborne replied but if you were 15 minutes early how much less would it be.

Mrs. Richards responded it would be significantly less.

Chairman Osborne stated this is what I am getting at because I know we can't take the streets and tear them apart and put in streetlights and so on and so forth. I think it is a matter for the School Board as well but I would like to bring it to the Committee here because it is traffic related.

Mrs. Richards stated I can prove your point of getting out 15 minutes earlier would be helpful because last year Matthew had study period as his last period and he would get out 15 to 20 minutes earlier because he would get done his studies and could come out when he was done. I hit no traffic trying to take a left-hand turn over here. There was basically no traffic precluding me from doing that so it was much, much easier.

Chairman Osborne stated if it is one it has to be for all. It would have to be for all the autistic and handicapped children because some parents would get a little bit disturbed about losing 15 minutes of education. I think it is a legal type of thing and I am going to have the City Solicitor look into it along with the School Board I guess and see if they can come up with something on that idea. I did talk to West High School, the Assistant Principal, and there was supposed to be somebody here from West but evidently they are not here.

Alderman Thibault stated I would like her to leave that map up here and show her a few things that maybe she is not aware of that I would like to make the Committee aware of. There are a few problems. What she is proposing as far as her morning problem...what she is not telling you here because I don't think she knows is there is a driveway over here that is a legal driveway with a handicapped person who has to get out occasionally and this is why we backed up the buses. The Mayor has been involved with this for many months and so have I. That is why we backed up the buses a little bit because we have to leave that driveway open for that handicapped person to be able to get out on an emergency basis. That is part of the problem in the morning. Then in the afternoon when she is talking about a traffic light down here you wouldn't be able to do that because it would be too close to Conant Street, which would be against the traffic rules as far as I know. Unless you people in the Traffic Committee really look at this thing...there is a problem there and I agree with her but everybody gets caught in that traffic – not just the handicapped and autistic children. Believe me I get caught in it and

many others do. It is something that the Traffic Department should look at and it is something that the Mayor has been involved in for a long time and so have I.

Alderman Forest stated I believe that most of the West Side Aldermen have been involved with one problem or another around West High. I was over there the other day about 11:15 or 11:30 and there were three school buses that showed up on Notre Dame. I was stuck behind them for about 10 minutes. They had the red lights on and they were waiting for students and for stragglers. They do drive right up and park right in the middle of the road and turn their red lights on. Again, I believe the buses bring them to the Voc Tech or whatever it is on Porter Street but in the meantime I was stuck there. I think maybe David Smith ought to be spoken to also and I think Alderman Thibault and Alderman Smith and I have talked to him. I don't know if it is a union problem or what but they could pull up a little bit and wait for the students...there are teachers out there. I don't want to knock the teachers because I know they are out there and monitor the situation and all of that but a lot of the students are just straggling and the buses are tied up and they tie up the traffic and there is no place for the cars to go because Notre Dame is a one-way north. If you are going up that street there is no way out until you go around those buses. It has been a problem for awhile and I know that former Mayor Baines when he was a principal asked for a lot of these streets to be no parking so there is no parking on either side so I cannot see why the buses can't pull over a little bit and maybe have the teachers or someone monitor this and hurry the students along and maybe they could avoid some of the traffic that builds up in the morning and in the afternoon.

Mrs. Richards stated there is supposed to be no parking on Notre Dame Avenue but what happens is parents who are dropping off students who need to go into school with them or are picking them up from school do park here. They park down here as well as over here. They also park on the side over here and if you get one car that parks here it delays everybody else because you have to wait for that car to move and everybody is trying to go around them.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would just suggest that if we get the City departments to get together with the School District they may be able to improve the situation over there. Maybe have Police and Highway sit down along with the Transit Authority and see if there is a way of improving...I don't know when the last time anybody looked at this was. If people are doing illegal activities that are messing up the rest of the situation, they should be ticketed plain and simple. If you need that as a motion to make sure that it happens I will do that.

Alderman Shea stated I just wondered about the input of the police. I am not sure, Lt. Hopkins, is there some way that there could be some kind of involvement on

the part of the police to sort of look at the situation and then come back and make some type of suggestion or recommendation?

Lt. Hopkins responded the parents are going to pick up their kids there. We can send somebody over for enforcement but if we don't have someone there everyday the situation is going to go right back to where it was two or three weeks later. We can hand out a bunch of tickets and it might have some effect for a week or two but then it is going to turn right back to the way it was. We are going to have to find a long-term solution for this and not just hand out tickets for a couple of days and hope the problem goes away. I will go over and take a look at it and see what we can do.

Alderman Shea asked do we have any kind of City official that has to do with traffic input. In other words if you go to the Zoning Board or Planning Board they say the impact of traffic on this particular...

Chairman Osborne interjected the Police Department would be the one with all of the statistics on it. Are you talking about violations?

Alderman Shea replied not necessarily violations but the amount of traffic that is impacting a particular area.

Chairman Osborne asked do you mean a traffic count with the counter. We could do that. We have a new one coming in don't we?

Lt. Hopkins answered we are working on it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I believe this is something that falls in line with a discussion Mr. Thomas has brought before us many times about the need for a professional traffic engineer in City government. Frank has talked about that for years and we have never implemented anything. Many communities in NH and around the region have traffic engineers. We do have the use, I think, of the folks from the Southern NH Planning Commission to help out but this is just one of many places that if we had an in-house staff person we could address.

Chairman Osborne responded I think if we had something like that we would be running into a lot of money too. We would be changing streets and everything else.

Alderman Thibault stated there is one more thing I would like to bring out. For all practical purposes Notre Dame Avenue is basically completely closed when these school buses are there in order to protect the children that go to that school. Now I understand this lady's problem, however, how do you handle the other 1,200 or

1,400 kids that are going into that school? This is a problem that has been there forever. I have been an Alderman for 19 years and playing with this problem for 19 years. There has to be some kind of a study that can be done to see if this problem can be reduced. I can't blame the police officer when one or two cars come over on Notre Dame and park there before the buses park there. Where do you want the buses to go? At that point it creates an effect all the way down Conant to Main Street and they hold up traffic on Main Street. I can't blame the police for that because those cars are there before the buses get there. That is a problem.

Chairman Osborne stated it is a matter of being in sequence. I guess the only thing is what I first brought up. I think that was the most logical thing to do. If you can let out the handicapped and autistic children first that would alleviate that problem. I don't think any student would have any problem with that. It is the idea of the legality of the thing. Some people would be mad at that and some wouldn't so it is a tough situation. Since I was an Alderman back 25 years it was the same way over there but now it is getting worse with the senior center and other things going on over there. That street hasn't widened. We have a widening of Granite Street but no widening of Main Street.

Alderman Thibault replied the senior center basically doesn't affect this that much except a little bit in the afternoon. In the morning the senior center is not open. In the afternoon at 3 PM or 3:30 PM is when you might get some traffic from the senior center and at that point basically the traffic from West High is gone.

Chairman Osborne stated I am not picking on the senior center. I am just saying in general there is a lot more going on there. I would like to have the Solicitor and the School District come up with an idea for these kids and see how they feel about the 15-minute issue.

Alderman O'Neil stated you have a motion and I will make another one on that but I would like to make a motion that the City staff work with MTA to take a look at what changes could be made at possible at West High School.

Alderman Thibault responded let me tell you again that the MTA has been contacted. Dave and I have been working on this for months. It is not the MTA that is causing the problem. It is the out-of-town buses from Goffstown and Bedford that are creating the problems.

Alderman O'Neil replied well whomever. If the only way to get their attention is for Lt. Hopkins to put a ticket on them, put a ticket on them. That will get their attention that they need to respect the wishes of the City. Included in my motion I

want to ask that the City Solicitor work with the School District regarding any legal issues on letting the autistic and handicapped kids out 15 minutes early.

Alderman Forest stated I would like to thank Mrs. Richards. She did a lot of work on this diagram here to prove her point.

Chairman Osborne responded she might be using it again over at the School Board.

Mrs. Richards stated actually I did it in my free time while I was waiting for Matthew to come out of school.

Chairman Osborne stated I do think this is an issue for the School Board as well. Maybe if she could get on their agenda sometime...I thank you Mrs. Richards for coming and for calling and Alderman Shea and all of the other Aldermen thank you for your interest.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I have a motion by Alderman O'Neil to do what you wanted to do in terms of having the City Solicitor and School District plus have the City staff get together with the MTA and other bus companies that might be appropriate. I don't have a second.

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

Chairman Osborne stated there are a couple of other things I would like to bring up under new business. First, could Mr. Hoben come up please? Something was brought to my attention when Alderman Roy mentioned all of the white lines and hash marks that he wants to make commonplace in Manchester here. The paint guns...the stripers that we have now are really obsolete. You have to do three times the work to get into hash marks and everything else. I brought Mr. Hoben forward to discuss this situation. They are called airless stripers so when you go to make a stripe you can get the width that you want from the beginning rather than getting a small width and then having the guy go over that three times this way and three times that way. I think they are about 13 years old, the ones that you have now.

Jim Hoben, Traffic Director, responded 17 years old.

Chairman Osborne asked how much were they at the time. \$3,000 or \$4,000?

Mr. Hoben answered between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

Chairman Osborne stated if you take that \$2,500 and you divide it by the 17 years I think you got your monies worth out of those two machines. By looking and buying two new machines for striping, it would take a lot less labor so the labor alone would probably save the cost of these stripers in the long run so I think we would be way ahead of the game if we looked into doing something like this. The new stripers are how much money?

Mr. Hoben responded \$7,000.

Chairman Osborne stated so we are talking about \$15,000.

Alderman Roy stated just for discussion while I do like the idea of new stripers and saving our labor costs, Jim have we ever looked into subbing out...I believe it is Nashua that has a contractor come in once a year and repaint all of their white lines or yellow lines. Have we ever looked at that as a City?

Mr. Hoben responded we are going to present something to the CIP Committee for a thermoplastic program. We will be submitting that this month.

Alderman Roy asked and would that include doing it in-house or subcontracting it out.

Mr. Hoben answered it would be a combination of both. I haven't sat down with Frank or Kevin yet on the regular budget but that will be a topic of conversation.

Alderman Roy asked is this something that would complement your proposal.

Mr. Hoben answered the thermoplastic program would; yes. We are proposing to do Elm Street in thermoplastic paint and possibly school zones to start.

Alderman Roy asked and you would be doing that with these new sprayers.

Mr. Hoben answered no this would be totally separate from the thermal plastic.

Alderman Roy stated I am asking you to expand on...the Aldermen is saying he wants two new sprayers at a cost of \$7,000 each and I am asking does it fit with what you are looking to do in the future.

Mr. Hoben replied yes it does because you requested that we do all crosswalks in 12" hash marks. This would definitely help. Our current stripers were not made for this.

Frank Thomas, Public Works Director, stated I want to briefly follow-up on what Jim was mentioning. We intend in this budget process to put together a complete proposal, which will include the airless sprayers, the thermal plastics and essentially the first phase of doing some of the painting under contract. It is going to be part of our budget presentation and then I am sure we will have further discussion once you get into the budget.

Alderman Roy stated Frank one of the reasons why I know Alderman Long had pushed for the striping that we used in Alderman Osborne's ward...one of the reason I pushed it through at this time of year was so that you could go ahead and plan for next year's budget. It is my understanding that you don't paint after mid-November. We have had great weather and you have done some extra work and I appreciate it but that is where I am looking for a lot of things to come out is as you present your budget to the Mayor and then when it gets to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Having a clear guideline from us I believe can only help you. This is something that I would love to see in next year's budget discussion. How we can reduce labor and put the right equipment in the right hands and whether it is City labor hands or sub-contractor hands, just providing the most efficient services to the constituents.

Mr. Thomas responded that is our intent.

Alderman Roy stated I would definitely be in favor if that plan comes forward with two new sprayers to save labor.

Chairman Osborne stated I have one other thing under new business. I would like to ask Brandy Stanley to come forward please. Brandy and I have had long discussions over the Middle Street parking lot. I am bringing in the Middle Street parking lot right now and what my recommendation is. From the beginning I felt this way. I did go along one time with permits for it knowing that it was going to be a 30 day rescind situation but either we are going to use the Middle Street parking lot for City Hall and other businesses in the area or we are going to lease it all out. It is one way or the other. We can't have half of it one way and the other half another way. I think Brandy can speak to this a little more.

Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated what we found over the last week and a half to two weeks is that the transient parking demand in that lot has increased enormously. We are not really sure why that has happened but at least once a day over the last seven or eight business days we have had complaints from residential parking permit holders as well as permit holders in the parking lot that there is not enough parking available in the lot in addition to a business owner in the area who said his business is dropping off substantially because customers can't find a place to park in the parking lot. It seems to me that the best use of that parking lot is for

short-term parking rather than monthly parking and prior to a couple of weeks ago there seemed to be some type of happy medium where there were just enough public parking spaces. That is no longer the case and I think that it needs to be addressed in terms of making sure that there is adequate public parking available in this parking lot.

Chairman Osborne stated so we have a total of 39 spaces there.

Ms. Stanley answered the parking lot itself has a total of 66. There are 39 permits issued at this point. I have spent a lot of time in the parking lot over the last few weeks and most of the time there are very few, if any, spaces available and there are cars circling trying to find a place to park.

Chairman Osborne stated and we have plenty of room in the Victory garage correct.

Ms. Stanley replied we do have plenty of room in the Victory garage and there is also room in the Center of NH garage.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't disagree that there has been some significant change and I honestly can't tell you why. I know I have had to park over on Middle or Merrimack Street to come and do business during the last two or three weeks. My understanding is there may be some movement today to pull those permits but I think in a professional manner now that we have a Parking Manager on board I do agree that some change needs to happen but I would like to see 30 days for Brandy to be able to reach out to the 11 or so people that hold various permits in that lot out of fairness. They came to us and we voted for it and just to say there is probably going to be change coming and you can work...I had a nice discussion with Brandy today about Victory. I think that is the cheapest price of garages...no actually you told me Canal Street was currently at \$65 although we have no control over that. That is a privately controlled garage. Victory we do have control over. It is at \$70 with some capacity. Canal Street has capacity and what was the price you told me for Granite Street?

Ms. Stanley stated the Center of NH garage is \$85/month.

Alderman O'Neil stated and we don't have any control over that either. So before we move to just say we are going to yank the permits I would like to give Brandy 30 days to sit down with the businesses and try to help them develop an alternative plan before we actually pull the permits.

Alderman Shea stated I am not sure if we have any responsibilities to certain parties. I am not sure. I know that the recent granting was predicated upon their

willingness to park there as long as we say there is available space. Legally I think and I agree with Alderman O'Neil that we should look into any provisions that have been made that would say to anyone other than the ones we gave temporary permission to whether there is a date that they cannot park beyond or whether it is simply up to us as a Board here to change the disposition of their being able to park. I concur with Alderman O'Neil. The other night I couldn't find a place to park at all. There is simply no place to park. Why that is I am not sure but it has increased. Even today people were riding around so I think the sooner we can clear it of permit parking to an extent in my judgement the better.

Chairman Osborne stated Brandy when we started out with this all of the people I see here on this list were on notice of a 30 day rescind. They were all on 30 day correct?

Ms. Stanley responded that is correct. I have researched all of the businesses or individuals who have permits and there are no obligations. We checked with the Solicitor's Office and they don't see...as long as we give 30 days written notice they don't see any issues with canceling any of the permits.

Chairman Osborne asked Mr. Arnold is that true.

Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, responded I wasn't involved personally but my understanding is that they are all 30-day permits and consequently can be revoked after 30 days notice.

Chairman Osborne stated well I know it isn't much of a Christmas present here but I think what we are doing here...what I was thinking of was even giving 45 days notice until February 1. We have to do it sometime or another and Brandy could still help these individuals out but I think we should get into the picture here what we are going to do. Either we are going to do it or we aren't going to do it.

Alderman Long asked Brandy what is the long-term objective here.

Ms. Stanley asked the long-term objective for the site.

Alderman Long answered yes for the parking lot.

Ms. Stanley stated long-term I believe that the best solution for this particular site is a parking garage in conjunction with the Diocese site. I know that there were some conversations with some of the local business owners and building owners, as well as the Diocese before Paul Borek left and there was a considerable amount of interest to do that. Obviously those discussions haven't gone anywhere since but I think that is the best use of that land in the long-term. In the short-term I

strongly believe that we need to preserve those parking spaces for short-term parkers.

Alderman Long asked so in your opinion short of a parking garage you believe that should be short-term parking.

Ms. Stanley answered yes.

Alderman Long stated now I understand the transient parking has increased. Out of the 18 permits that we authorized to 20 Market Street do you know how many of those he has issued?

Ms. Stanley replied I believe he has issued 12 and that may have changed since the last time I spoke to him.

Alderman Long stated my opinion is that just those 12 would put enough stress on that lot where people wouldn't find parking spots. I agree that it should be used for short-term parking. It is by City Hall and a lot of people go to City Hall. However, I also agree that these people that currently have a permit should be given ample notice that we are going to be pulling the permits and hopefully we can direct them to places they can seek other permits.

Chairman Osborne stated well when Mr. Gamache first came here I put the question out there...I didn't see the reason why somebody would want 18 spaces on a 30 day notice. When you have tenants and I have had them myself so I know how it goes but you can't put anything long-term in there with the parking because it is a 30-day rescind situation. So it is a touchy situation one way or the other. I don't like it and that is too bad but we have to look out for the City as well. If people can't get into City Hall to pay their taxes or register their car or go into the Clerk's Office to get a marriage license...no matter what it might be we have to look at the whole picture. This is the way I feel about it.

Alderman Lopez asked Brandy are there enough spaces at the Victory Street garage.

Ms. Stanley answered yes.

Alderman Lopez asked for 66 spaces.

Ms. Stanley answered yes. Only 39 permits are currently issued for that lot and the Victory Garage can easily absorb all 39.

Alderman O'Neil asked what are they paying for a permit space in the Middle Street lot.

Ms. Stanley replied currently they are paying \$45/month.

Alderman O'Neil asked and in order to accommodate them at Victory they would be paying \$70/month.

Ms. Stanley answered that is what the rate is; yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked as of right now in a private owned garage on Canal Street it is \$65/month but that could change without any notice.

Ms. Stanley answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated Mr. Chairman I don't disagree with you. I just think we need to do this in a very professional manner. I would like to give it a little more than 30 days to make it happen. I agree there is a problem. I would like to give Brandy a chance to work something out and come back and say I have met with all of them and they agree or don't agree and I made these offers to them and then we make the move at the next meeting.

Chairman Osborne asked how long would you say.

Alderman O'Neil answered 30 days. We are going to meet next month.

Chairman Osborne asked how long do you want to give them. Brandy what is your opinion?

Ms. Stanley stated I think that when or if we decide to cancel the permits, whether that be tonight or next month or the month after that we still need to allow a 30-day notice.

Chairman Osborne stated well we are giving them 45 right now. When is the next meeting? It is 45 days roughly.

Alderman Long stated I don't want to put anything in Alderman O'Neil's mouth but I agree with what he is saying...

Chairman Osborne interjected I do too. You have to have some sort of a timeline here.

Alderman Long stated you are right. My intent is to pull these permits. When that happens I don't know. The bottom line is I agree that it should be short-term parking in that lot. I have no problem with that whatsoever. However, I believe that these businesses should be given some alternative by us as to where else they can park and at what price. It is unfortunate that we can't accommodate them all but we can't. I remember Alderman Osborne saying we are opening up a can of worms. Yes you are absolutely right and I want to see that can of worms open because that is the only time we take a look at something. We are trying to put a round peg in a square hole here. Now we see clearly what the permitting did and that it is not going to work. We need short-term parking. At this time you are looking at 39 permits, which isn't that much to accommodate elsewhere. Like I stated earlier in my opinion the permits should be pulled. It is just a question of how long we give them giving Brandy ample time to speak with these businesses and give them the alternatives and report back to us as to what they are. You know they may say I understand and you are right but on the other hand they may be saying I want to park right where I am parking now. I guess the question is what timeframe we are looking at.

Chairman Osborne asked Brandy do you think March 1 would be sufficient. Another 75 days or so to get everything squared away with these people.

Ms. Stanley answered yes.

Alderman Long stated the only problem I foresee with March 1 is there is a problem now. People aren't able to park. Could we talk to Mr. Gamache and at least hang on to those six that he hasn't permitted yet? Right now I believe he has 12 that he has given out permits for. We would have to give him the 30-day notice but could we ask him to hang onto the additional six? We need relief in that parking lot now. There is a problem now and it is only going to get worse by the time March comes around. There are businesses there that I have spoken with and I know you have that want short-term parking and their patrons aren't able to go into their businesses because there is no parking. It is a problem that needs to be addressed now so is there some way we can relieve some of that now in your opinion?

Ms. Stanley replied I would be willing to talk to any and all of the people on the list and see if they would be willing to voluntarily release their permits in advance of March 1.

Chairman Osborne asked Mr. Arnold do you think it would still be wise to give the 30 day notice and work with that as it comes back to the Committee and leave it on the table.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold answered wise is up to the Committee. The only point I would make is that you need to give 30 days notice. It is a policy decision whether you want to give that 30-day notice now or 30 days from now or do you want to give more notice for a future date.

Chairman Osborne asked if you give a 30 day notice can you stretch it even though you have a 30 day notice out there.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold answered you have to give a minimum of 30 days. You can give more than that.

Chairman Osborne stated what I am trying to say is if we make a motion for the 30 day notice at least everybody is no notice and Brandy can go out and work with these people and we can take it from there and come back to our next meeting and see what is going on.

Alderman Roy stated first just a clarification from the Solicitor and then I will get to my question that I had originally. Tom, the 30-day notice is from approval of the full Board and not this Committee correct?

Deputy Solicitor Arnold responded yes.

Alderman Roy asked so whatever we decide tonight has to go to the full Board and 30 days from that so depending on when we do that...Brandy my second question for you is right now people are paying \$45/month for permits and while I understand in most places parking in a garage is more attractive than parking in a street lot and, therefore, it is reflected in the price why are we reversed that what seems to be our highest demand parking location, the one that we are constantly getting requests for and constantly selling out and is constantly busy are we then in turn making one of the least expensive places in the City to park.

Chairman Osborne asked can I answer that.

Alderman Roy answered well I really want our \$100,000/year employee to answer it.

Chairman Osborne stated well I think she will agree with me anyway. Parking for \$45/month is really inexpensive when they are charging \$65 up at the Hampshire Plaza but there are very few women who want to park in garages like that. They don't like it. It is very scary. The reason why this one moves so quickly...in other words it is all on one level and in the street and they feel more safe in the Middle Street lot than they would at the Hampshire Plaza. That is my opinion.

Alderman Roy replied I am fine with that and hopefully with two of Manchester's finest in the audience all of our parking garages are safe but my point is again and I am going to ask this to Brandy, why is our highest demand location our least priced entity. It is great to park in a garage or it is not great to park in a garage depending on your viewpoint but Brandy why...I mean if we were \$80/permit would you still fill that lot?

Ms. Stanley responded yes I believe I would. To some people it is more attractive to park in a garage but if you look at traffic flow in the morning or during an event you are going to see that surface lots and non-garage parking will fill every single time faster than a garage will because it is easier to get into and easier to get out of. In terms of why the rate is \$45/month, the only thing I can tell you is that what our permit rate is for every single lot in the City. I don't think that it has ever been looked at from the terms of the location of each individual lot and what the right rate according to the surrounding market really should be. If we were to make a recommendation it would probably be to raise that rate so that it fits in with the general market in that area.

Alderman Roy stated I for one would like to see, I mean we have a parking problem in the City. You have been here a month and I know your focus has been on the meters and getting that going. I would like to see something more comprehensive than just terminate this and hope it solves the problem. I think there has to be a balance between what we commit to landlords and what we leave open to the public. I love the idea that you are holding pay and display meters for some of the lots that were the higher traffic to get rid of the meters in those. I, for one, would like to see more analysis. I don't think we should have a blanket number that every permit is X dollars. I think when you look at this compared to the Hartnett lot compared to something in the north end or south end down by Granite Street, each one has their attractive nature and I would want you as the professional to put a dollar amount on that. From there, one of my other concerns that I know is Alderman Garrity's concern all of the time is City employees tying up spots and feeding meters or the pay and display or having permits. That is something that again as the parking professional I would want you to analyze. When I pull into City Hall and I recognize 10 or 15 cars parked around me and I know that they have been here all day doing their jobs that means 10 or 15 people couldn't get in to pay their taxes.

Ms. Stanley replied I absolutely agree. I know those are all issues, along with a number of other issues and it is definitely near the top of my priority list to look at all of that stuff because I couldn't agree with you more.

Alderman Roy stated I, for one, before we make another snap decision whether it be a 30 day notice or not would want, now that you are here, to give you the

guidance to fix it and come back with something comprehensive. I know from a message you left me earlier today we were talking about Mechanic Street and changing some lines there. That could add 10 or 15 spots and would that impact this lot and things like that. I don't want to make one fix without making a bunch.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold stated I am looking at the ordinance and I think I was mistaken in informing you that the leases have to go to the full Board. The ordinance says upon direction by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. It doesn't say upon approval. I believe past practice has been to send it for informational purposes to the full Board.

Chairman Osborne asked so bottom line here is it is up to the Committee.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold answered subject to the direction of the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman O'Neil stated this is exactly the reason why Brandy is here – to try to bring some rhyme and reason to this whole crazy system we call parking in the City of Manchester. She is going to have her hands full for a long time.

Alderman Long asked Brandy in your professional opinion if these permits were at \$80/month do you think we would still have the same problem we are having today.

Ms. Stanley answered absolutely.

Alderman Shea stated we can kick this around forever and a day. My recommendation is that Brandy come back to the Committee with a recommendation at our next meeting after having spoken to all parties concerned giving them options and whatever else and we put a ban...I think that comes into agenda items #5 and #6 so we say no more and we put a ban on permits. That would stop the flow of permits being issued and then when you come back with what Alderman Roy has indicated and give us a background as far as whether City employees are using spots that should be freed up or what have you we can make a decision. That would be my motion.

Chairman Osborne stated I don't think Item 5 has anything to do with this. Maybe Item 6 does. I think we should bring this to an end like Alderman Shea said. I still think we should have a 30-day notice here or heads up somewhere in regards to what we do and what Alderman Shea said and what Alderman Long said and what Alderman Roy said and what Alderman O'Neil said. I think we should make notice here at least. We can always expand the time but at least there is notice out

there so they can at least start thinking about it. Does anybody want to make that motion?

Alderman Shea moved to give 30-day notice to all permit holders in the Middle Street lot. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated I do have a problem and I won't vote for the 30 days for the simple fact that even if we don't make changes you are sending that message to landlords and tenants and small business owners that I think is a negative message based on a report or information we are not getting yet. I hate to send mixed messages to the people that we are trying to help locate downtown. I just feel that by sending that 30-day notice we are working towards sending a message that when Brandy comes back with this information we may not want to send. I will vote against it. I feel we are sending a bad message.

Chairman Osborne stated Alderman Roy they know now.

Deputy Clerk Piecuch stated I would like to get a clarification because what Alderman Shea stated is he is looking for Brandy to come back to the next Committee meeting after talking to all of the parties involved. There was no notation of a 30-day notice at that time. He didn't say that.

Alderman Shea replied I would like to indicate to her that she would have that prerogative to mention that to these people.

Chairman Osborne asked are you putting the 30-day notice in your motion.

Alderman Shea answered yes. Alderman Long who duly seconded the motion, agreed with the 30-day notice also.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Roy being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Continuing discussions relative to crime prevention recommendations.

There was nothing to report.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Shea proposing the establishment of a Manchester Crime Prevention Committee.

Alderman Shea called Deputy Chief Lussier forward. I did discuss this with the Chief earlier today. Could you fill in a little bit about what we talked about? I want to preface that by predicating my remarks on that fact that we both, as well as other Aldermen here, were in a meeting that the Governor was present at and he indicated that he was going to assign the Attorney General to confer on a regional basis with Massachusetts so with that background you can kind of explain where we are now.

Deputy Police Chief Lussier stated looking at the list of people that you proposed to be on the Committee I can tell you that we already have partnerships with many of these people. We do, in fact, work closely with people from the State Police, the Sheriff's Office, the FBI, the ATF, Office of Youth Services, Mayor's Office and indeed have been in touch with some of the colleges. In various degrees, not all in one committee, we do actually work with all of these people and at this point I think that it would be a little bit redundant to form a similar committee.

Alderman Shea replied I am not quite sure whether the intent of this is to form a separate committee at this time necessarily although that is the suggestion. The impact as I discussed with you is there has to be some research that has to be given to the Aldermanic Board when the Police Department representative appears before the us during a budgetary hearing because so often the Aldermen don't get the full impact of what your department needs. If a study can be developed at the state level or by working with these particular people to get research into what specific areas of crime would be better handled by appropriating either money or focus or what have you, this is really what the intent of this was. Now it doesn't necessarily have to be predicated upon a Crime Prevention Committee but if there are studies or if there is research or if there is coordination that is going to be developed between say the State Attorney General's Office or the Governor in conjunction with the Governor of Massachusetts and from that flows different causes for different types of crimes being perpetrated and individuals that may be involved with the, I think it is incumbent upon the Aldermen to be able to help them when they develop a budget or when a budget is developed. That is really what this is so rather than disregarding this I would like to just table it and see how this process works out. Again, the disposition of your department may be that this is redundant and it is going to cause additional work and so forth and I really don't want to have extensive work done by people when other resources are available to them but it is just an idea to get better insight into what is causing crime, where is it perpetrated and how can we as Aldermen do a better job in understanding how to help the department. That is the sole purpose of this. I am not sure if you want to respond or react or what have you.

Deputy Chief Lussier responded as individual circumstances arise, we will look into those circumstances. If you don't feel that there is necessary research being done, that is something we will address and make sure that the appropriate research gets done and address that issue. You are speaking on a variety of issues and I think as different subjects come up we do address those and we do work with these people in a focus manner on certain areas.

Alderman Shea stated what I would be more interested in is having sort of like instead of a piecemeal kind of response having some sort of a compilation where there is not one matter addressed but three or four or five or whatever the case may be. There are different areas that obviously the police are privy to, which they cannot reveal publicly and nobody is interested in that. I am just saying that the more information the Aldermanic Board can receive, the better we can judge and make decisions that would impact the Police Department. I am not sure if others want to comment.

Alderman Shea moved to table. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked can we comment.

Chairman Osborne answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated I believe that Alderman Shea is looking for whatever information we can get out of the department that will allow us to make changes directly involving the Police Department but it may be other situations. For instance, absentee landlords...I am going to make up a number, say 75% of violent crime happens in buildings with absentee landlords. I think it is that type of information he is trying to get back so we can not only make decisions regarding the Police Department but we can make other decisions in City government that will help address this issue. I think the frustration to date is that we haven't been getting back any of that information. What is the source and what is the root of...you know we have taken steps with re-establishing the Neighborhood Enhancement Team and I think it has been successful but that is just one minor part of this.

Deputy Chief Lussier responded are there questions you have asked that haven't been answered.

Alderman O'Neil replied I don't know if we have asked specific questions. I think we are looking for some information back though.

Deputy Chief Lussier asked are you looking for an analysis of crimes in Manchester as a whole.

Alderman O'Neil answered that would be part of it in my opinion. I think that is why Alderman Shea was trying to expand beyond the Manchester Police Department because it may also include what is going on regionally and what is going on...he mentioned earlier that the Governors in Massachusetts and NH are having those discussions. Kind of the whole comprehensive thing and I know you have a lot of activities going on already to address many of these but unfortunately we are not getting all of that back.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated we work with the State Police on special enforcement projects. We work with State Liquor on the nightclubs. We work with the NET team on some of the issues going on within the City. We do work, as I said, with a lot of these people. I am still a little bit confused.

Alderman Shea stated what I am primarily interested in is when you work with all of these different departments what you are doing is treating the effect normally of what has caused crime. That is my opinion. I am not quite sure whether that is a true analysis but that is how I see it. What I am primarily trying to find out is what is causing crime and why are people committing crimes? Most people will say drug use or the lack of kids properly being supervised by, not absentee property owners but absentee parents. These are two causes. It could be the fact that we don't have the right kind of policing being done in the right sections of the City. We talked about a precinct on the West Side. Is that a viable reason why crime is being perpetrated in an area in the City where there is not the presence of a precinct? Maybe it is and maybe it is not but these are the kinds of things that unless you get a handle on the causes of crime we will be treating the effects of crime forever and a day. That is exactly what...if regional discussions are going to help out that is great. If the people that are involved in doing research at the college level can help out, that's great. I am not trying to burden you or the Chief or anyone else in sitting down and compiling a 50 page or 100 page report that we throw on a shelf someplace. All I am saying is the more we examine the causes of crime, we will have a better handle on how to deal with that problem and how to appropriate funding for the necessary things that will take care of that.

Deputy Chief Lussier responded a little bit of what you are speaking of deals with being proactive versus reactive. Reactive is when you have a problem and you go out and address it and proactive is trying to solve that problem ahead of time to prevent it from taking place. Part of our philosophy is a preventative policing type of philosophy. We do have weekly meetings and meet with all of the different people within the divisions throughout the building to identify those problems and work on attacking those problems before they grow or become bigger issues. We are trying to be more proactive than reactive.

Alderman Shea replied nobody is disputing that and I give you credit for doing that. I am not saying that nothing is being done in that regard but the more the focus can be on that, the better. Like research that they do medically to find the cause of cancer or other things rather than just giving chemo to people who have it. That's all.

Deputy Chief Lussier stated I think if we could answer the question as to why people commit crimes we would all have Ph.D.'s.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote on the motion to table. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Deidre Riley requesting issuance of a resident parking permit in Zone #1.

Ms. Stanley stated this particular person is a resident in Zone #1. She is attending a non-credited school and she has a Massachusetts driver's license and license plate. While I don't necessarily doubt that she actually lives there, the way the ordinance is currently written she doesn't qualify for it because the school is not accredited nor does she have a NH driver's license or license plate. I am not sure if making an exception in this case is something that can be done. If it can't, then the ordinance needs to be changed. Also, I don't have very much information about the residential parking permits yet and I don't know if there are other requests like this out there and if granting an acceptance to this person would open a can of worms as Alderman Lopez would say.

Chairman Osborne asked Deputy Solicitor Arnold do you have any input on this situation.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold answered I am trying to get a copy of the ordinance in front of me now. Looking at the ordinance what it provides is that proof of residence in a residential parking zone, which I believe is probably the issue in this particular case, has to be in a form reasonably satisfactory to the Manchester Police Department. If she could present evidence that is reasonably satisfactory to the Police Department that she is a resident of that zone she could get a permit.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated if I can just address this because the Clerk's Office was involved in the language as it was written and the reason it was written the way it was was to allow the discretion of the Police Department to make those decisions on a policy basis. If they are satisfied that that person is a resident of that area and is attending a school and meets the basic conditions then there should

be no issue. It really goes back to the Police Department the way the ordinance is written and that is the way the Solicitor is basically interpreting this. I think it is maybe something that the Police Department could sit down with the Solicitor's Office and perhaps address it for them.

Chairman Osborne asked so do we want to move this to the Solicitor's Office or the Police Department.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson answered the Police Department is in charge of the unit that is issuing residential permits. It goes to Ordinance Violations so my suggestion would be that the Lieutenant and the City Solicitor perhaps have a discussion about what they are establishing for policy and how they can address this situation.

Ms. Stanley stated I just want to make sure that the City Solicitor is looking at the amendment to Section 70.55 (E)(2a) of October 4, 2005, which specifically changes the language.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold replied yes. That wasn't the section I was referring to. It is the one that I was just looking at because it deals with a letter from the Registrar of a state accredited post secondary school. That, of course, is tied together with a driver's license requirement with an address within a residential permit zone. Obviously I need a few more facts here to determine what section of this ordinance applies and I could work with the Police Department to do that and issue a result to the person who requested it.

Alderman Shea stated I would like to table this until we get more information.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded you could do that and in the meantime the staff could work on it and report back to the Committee.

Alderman Shea moved to table. Alderman Long duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Roy stated Brandy you said a non-accredited school. What school are you referring to?

Ms. Stanley replied I don't have the answer.

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated it is an art school.

Chairman Osborne called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Osborne addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Request of Judith Paris for a parking permit in the Middle Street Parking Lot.

Alderman Long moved to receive and file.

Alderman Roy asked can we refer this to the Parking Manager as well as the tabled item.

Chairman Osborne stated we can do that. It doesn't matter.

Alderman Roy moved to remove Item 14 from the table and refer it to the Parking Manager along with Item 6.

Request for parking permits in the Middle Street Parking Lot as follows:

- a) Euclid A. Dupuis (1); and
- b) Market Street Settlement Group (as many as allowed).

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

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

STOP SIGNS:

On School Street at Fourth Street, northeast corner
Alderman Smith

On Acorn Circle at Sylvan Lane, northwest corner
Alderman Forest

NO PARKING ANYTIME:

On Walnut Hill Avenue, south side, from No. Russell Street easterly to the dead end (Emergency Ordinance)
Alderman Roy

On Tarrytown Road, east side, from Hanover Street to a point 265 feet north of Lake Ave.

ONE HOUR PARKING (8AM-5PM/MONDAY/SATURDAY):

On Cilley Road, north side, from a point 100 feet east of Porter Street to a point 105 feet easterly

Alderman Shea

CROSSWALKS:

On No. Commercial Street, north of the Myrna Parking Lot (Emergency Ordinance)

Alderman Long

On So. Hall Street, south of Cilley Road (Emergency Ordinance)

Alderman Shea

On Cilley Road, west of Hall Street (Emergency Ordinance)

Alderman Garrity

On Beatrice Lawrence Drive, north of Goffs Falls Road – Emergency Ordinance

Alderman DeVries

TRAFFIC SIGNALS:

Goffs Falls Road at Beatrice Lawrence Drive (effective when operational)

Alderman DeVries

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Long, it was voted to accept the traffic agenda as proposed with addendums.

TABLED ITEMS

8. Discussion relating to coordination of services and utilities during storm events such as what occurred on February 10, 2006 as requested by Alderman O’Neil.
(Tabled 03/21/2006 pending report from Fire and Police Departments.)

This item remained on the table.

9. Parking Study Recommendations.
(Tabled 04/18/2006 – previously forwarded under separate cover.)

This item remained on the table.

10. **STOP SIGNS:**

On Lacourse Street at Rhode Island Avenue, NEC

On New York Street at Rhode Island Avenue, SWC

Alderman Duval

(Tabled 05/16/2006)

This item remained on the table.

11. Discussion relative to building codes/ordinances plus infrastructure relating to health and safety issues as requested by Chairman Osborne.
(Tabled 08/01/2006 pending further information from the Building Department.)

This item remained on the table.

12. Discussion relative to prohibiting trapping of animals in the City.
(Tabled 09/26/2006)

This item remained on the table.

13. Communication from Alderman Duval requesting a residential parking zone for residents on Ash Street, between Bridge and Lowell Streets, subject to certification by property owners and the Building Department.
(Tabled 10/17/2006; pending further information from Alderman Duval)

This item remained on the table.

15. Communication from Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Commission recommending naming the Manchester Recreational Trail system inclusive of Manchester City limits present and future, in honor of Officer Briggs to be called "The Michael L. Briggs Trail System 83."

This item remained on the table.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee