

# COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

October 3, 2023 at 5:45 PM

Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Barry, Long, Stewart, George-Kelly, Kantor

Messrs.: R. Cashin, A. Aldenberg, T. Clougherty, Alderman E. Sapienza

1. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:  
**NO PARKING ANYTIME**  
On Beacon Street, east side, from a point 85 feet south of Laurel Street to a point 50 feet further south  
On Lincoln Street, east side, from Amherst Street to a point 65 feet north  
*Alderman Fajardo*  
**METERS 2-HOURS**  
On Merrimack Street, north side, from Chestnut Street to a point 50 feet west  
*Alderman Long*  
**CROSSWALK**  
On Brown Avenue, west of Elm Street  
*Alderman Long*  
**RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME**  
On Merrimack Street, north side, from Chestnut Street to a point 50 feet west (ORD 3387)  
On Oakland Avenue, south side, from Woodbine Avenue to a point 65 feet east (ORD9126)  
*Alderman Heath*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to approve.*

2. Communication from Chris Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding a request from LNA Health Careers to use the Middle Street Lot for a healthcare recruiting event scheduled for October 22, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:15 PM.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Communication from Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, on behalf of their client Grand Central Suites LLC, requesting approval of various parking changes, loading zone striping changes, crosswalks, and signing changes to Central Street, Litchfield Lane, and Manhattan Lane.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to approve.*

**4. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, regarding the process of updating City addresses to match the State of New Hampshire's 911 mapping system.**

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, stated I want to give a quick update and statement. If you have any questions, I'll answer them. In 2013, New Hampshire Division of E-911 began to restructure their statewide mapping system. The purpose of this restructure is to enhance mapping capabilities and to ensure expedited response times to calls throughout the state. The City Fire, Police, Highway, Assessors, Planning, and Info Systems have been working along with the state for several years on the mapping system update. The overall goal is to ensure that all city addresses coincide with addresses in the state's E-911 system. My first goal is to make certain that every resident in the City of Manchester is guaranteed the fastest response time possible when dialing 911. However, with this project there are some discrepancies in the city with certain addresses. At this time, I do not have enough information to recommend any address changes. Over the next several months, the city's team is going to continue to work with the state to reduce the current number of discrepancies. I am fully aware with the hardship that comes with a change of address and have no intention of recommending a change of any address unless there is an imminent risk to life and safety of the residents. If there are any recommended changes, those changes will be brought back to this committee and the public will also have a chance to comment before being brought to the BMA for a final vote. I do not anticipate this project to be completed in less than three months. I want to reiterate again that at this time we have no public safety concerns.

Chairman Barry asked how many do you think in the City of Manchester may have to be changed.

Chief Cashin replied I do not have an estimate on that now, currently there was a list they were working on before. They already whittled down the list quite significantly. We do know we have an issue on Straw Road and we're looking into that. There might be a few others. A lot of them have to do with issues that we don't feel need to be changed and that aren't going to jeopardize the 911 system whatsoever. Some of them are issues that the state would like to see changed; we're not going to change something for the sake of changing it. It is going to have to be a life safety thing for us; changing an address is a big deal.

Chairman Barry stated is it going to be the what the city suggests - your department as well as any emergency response.

Chief Cashin responded that's correct. If there is an address that we feel is going to delay emergency response, we're going to bring it back to this committee, there will be a public comment, and we will recommend a change in that address. If there is no public safety risk, I have no intention of bringing any changes forward.

**5. Special events update from the Police Department, if available.**

Allen Aldenberg, Chief of Police, stated October 7 will be October Fest 5K down at Backyard Brewery. Low impact to traffic and the public. October 14 will be the Able Justice Parade at Arms Park. October 21 will be the 5k for Hope at the Delta Dental

Stadium at 11:00. October 21, Halloween 5k same location. On October 28, Cross Country Championship up at the Derryfield. On October 28, Trick or Trot 3k. For those not aware, Halloween Trick or Treat will take place on October 31 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Alderman Long asked regarding the October 22 LNA, are you involved in that event at Middle Street Parking Lot. It is a Saturday from 1:00PM to 4:15PM.

Chief Aldenberg stated it is not on my radar but I can look into it.

### **TABLED ITEM**

6. Communication from Owen Friend-Gray, Deputy Public Works Director, regarding Sheffield Road.  
(Note: Tabled on 09/05/2023.)

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman George-Kelly**, it was voted to remove the item from the table.*

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, stated as you are aware there is a packet of information that we put together with the pros and cons of the different alternatives. It is my understanding that Owen was here in front of the committee last month and was asked to come up with a recommendation. As everybody is aware and is contained in the letter, the state is in the process of upgrading that intersection. They have gone out for engineering services and it is my understanding that they are negotiating those engineering services currently. The project is funded in the state's current ten-year plan. It would be our recommendation that we allow the state to go through their due diligence in order for an informed decision to be made relative to the disposition of this intersection.

Chairman Barry asked do you have a timeframe.

Mr. Clougherty stated it is currently in the 2025 plan. They will probably go through a year of engineering and study and then they'll put it out for bid and construction.

Chairman Barry asked what would the impact be if one of the proposals is to just make Sheffield Road from South Willow towards Harvey, that portion of it, a one-way. I don't know if we can do that temporarily until the state decides to do something. The impact that they're going to have is South Willow only. The Sheffield portion is city, right?

Mr. Clougherty replied that's correct. Obviously, it would have an impact on the neighborhood. There would be issues with people having to turn around half way down that street. We have also gotten correspondence from the majority if not all of the abutters who are currently opposed to this becoming a one-way.

Chairman Barry stated that certainly sheds a different light.

Alderman George-Kelly asked is it possible to bring Alderman Sapienza up to talk a little bit about his perspective. I thought he had different conversations with abutters regarding the same thing.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated the folks I talked to along that strip of road which is the intersection of Sheffield Road and South Willow, and the intersection of Sheffield Road and Harvey, so it is a little strip, all the people I talked to, all the residents, were in favor of making that a one-way. They said please go ahead and make that a one-way. There are a few businesses that don't like it, but they also understand that it probably does need to happen given all the accidents happening at that corner. By the way, that's the reason here. We are talking about human life. There are numerous accidents at that intersection; the intersection of Sheffield Road and South Willow. Another corporation I talked to there is opposed to it. They said they also understand. Most of the reaction I got was in favor of making it a one-way. Yes, it is in the state plan. I talked to the state myself numerous times. It could take numerous years for the state to go ahead with this project; it is not going to happen any time soon. As far as the difficulty turning around, that was if we were going to make half of that strip one-way, which is not the plan. That was not feasible. That idea was discounted. The idea is from the corner of Sheffield and South Willow, you would be able to continue in a southwesterly direction up Sheffield towards the intersection of Sheffield and Harvey Road. It is coming anyway; it is in the state plan. We are just saying rather than wait for it...I myself sat in the back and listened to the state when they were here a few months ago. They were saying we are going to take care of this. Ok, great but I didn't realize at the time that they meant in a few years. There are too many accidents there.

Chairman Barry asked it is going to be from east to west.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated it is going to be in a southwesterly direction from that intersection; from South Willow, Sheffield, you will be able to continue away from that intersection to Harvey. If you're coming from Manchester Proper and Pro Image Auto was on your right you would be able to continue along. You would not be able to enter that intersection from Harvey and Sheffield. One more thing, a lot of the information I got is from the good folks at Pro Image Auto. The owner, Mike Alton, spoke here during public comment and he said it much better than I can. Those folks live this. This is their daily reality. They live in fear of one of these numerous accidents impacting them really bad. I told everybody that looks into this to talk to the people at Pro Image Auto because this is their daily reality. They live in fear of this daily.

Chairman Barry stated I hope it has an impact on accidents. I don't see it myself, because I'm very familiar with it. The other part of Sheffield, you still have to take a left if you're going towards Londonderry. When you start crossing traffic, that's where the accidents happen. I see it both ways. Tim, is it possible? Even if we did it temporarily to see how it works out.

Alderman Long asked what would be the timeframe. I'm reading one letter here from an abutter saying they would like time if you are going to do it to think of what they need to do. What is the timeframe if we were to approve this one-way?

Mr. Clougherty answered it could be done in a few weeks. You're basically talking about signage. I don't know what kind of striping exists out there right now but I'd want to look into that. There are also issues as we state in the letter. There is difficult geometry for trucks turning from South Willow onto Sheffield Road because of the differential in grade there.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated that is true, however, they are not prevented from going up Sheffield. They just have to take a different route and then they could do the straight shot.

Alderman Long asked from Mammoth.

Mr. Clougherty stated if there is through traffic they could always go to the next intersection.

Alderman Long asked what is the cost associated with this. I'm looking temporarily, too. That may be beneficial before the state does theirs. Let's see how this is working and we can advise the state. What's the cost of this?

Mr. Clougherty stated it is a cost of signage and labor. In the grand scheme of things pretty minimal.

**Alderman Stewart** stated I agree with Alderman Sapienza. Life safety trumps all in my opinion. No one is more of an expert in their neighborhood than the residents who live there. For those reasons I'll ***make a motion to approve the one-way west bound on Sheffield Road from South Willow Street to Harvey Road until further notice.***

Alderman Kantor stated I am concerned about when the signage is up. Is it going to create more confusion because people are so used to travelling both ways? How does that work?

Mr. Clougherty stated certainly there will be confusion anytime you change a street from two-way to one-way.

Alderman Long stated we recently did it on Central Street and they had a sign out there. A big blinking sign saying this is now a one-way. They had it out there for a couple weeks to give the people the idea.

Alderman Kantor stated like, wake up this is something new.

**Alderman Long** stated you can't turn there anymore. They had a good program for when they implement the one-way to give people a good heads-up. ***I will second the motion.***

Mr. Clougherty stated it is the same thing when we put in a stop sign where there wasn't previously a stop sign.

**Chairman Barry** called for a vote. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Clougherty asked what are we defining as temporarily.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I think of it as a southwesterly direction, but if you want to say westerly, fine.

Mr. Clougherty stated it is going to be one-way from South Willow to Harvey. Is this a temporary measure or are we installing permanent signage?

City Clerk Normand stated until further notice.

Chairman Barry stated yes, until further notice.

Alderman Kantor asked is there any way to put some fire under the state to get things going.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated that's a great question. I have talked to them several times. In fact, this past summer when we had an accident on Tuesday, I advised them. The next day, Wednesday, I called them and advised them. I said I want to keep you posted. Two days later there was another accident. So in the span of four days, there were three accidents. My point is I have been advising the state every step of the way. Just know that they are advised. We can let them know about this current one, but talking to them is difficult.

Alderman Kantor asked so who has the megaphones.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I will call them and let them know where we are at with this. I'll gladly do that.

Alderman Long asked Tim, this is part of the ten-year plan isn't it.

Mr. Clougherty answered it is.

Alderman Long asked aren't their hearings coming up soon. Or did they already have them?

Mr. Clougherty stated they had one Wednesday night in Londonderry last week. There are no hearings in Manchester this year.

Alderman Long stated I think there is one in Goffstown where you would go and make a request.

Mr. Clougherty stated I distributed a letter to the Clerk today on the state's draft ten-year plan that you will see in your next packet with pretty significant impacts to the City of Manchester.

Alderman Long asked positively.

Mr. Clougherty replied no.

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

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee