

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

August 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Vincent called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Vincent, Morgan, Kantor, Barry, Goonan

Messrs.: C. Goodnow

1. Communication from St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral requesting the use of sixty (60) traffic cones and the following parking signage for its annual Glendi event to be held from September 13–15:

NO PARKING SIGNS

Amherst Street, south side, from Highland Street to Kenney Street

Central Street, south side, from Kenney Street to 605 Central Street

Grant Street, west side, from Hanover Street to the dead-end

Laurel Street, south side, from Kenney Street easterly and westerly to the dead-ends (back-to-back signs)

Merrimack Street, north side, from Hanover Street to Cass Street

Hilton Street, east side, from Hanover Street to Amherst Street

HANDICAP PARKING SIGNS

Hanover Street, north side, west of Kenney Street (10 signs)

*On motion of **Alderman Kantor**, duly seconded by **Alderman Morgan**, it was voted to approve the request.*

2. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:

ONE-WAY

On Grove Street eastbound, from Elm Street to Willow Street

Alderman Long

CROSSWALK

On Cohas Avenue east of Mammoth Road

On East Industrial Park Drive north of Island Pond Road

Alderman Kantor

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Belmont Street, west side, from Cilley Road to a point 37 feet south

Alderman Terrio

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE

On Cedar Street, north side, from a point 90 feet east of Union Street to a point 60 feet easterly (ORD 8125)

Alderman Sapienza

Ordinance Changes Associated with the BMA Approval of Change in Traffic Pattern on Reservoir Ave on 5/31/24:

ONE-WAY

On Reservoir Avenue westbound, from Circular Drive to a point 190 feet east of Belmont Street

NO PARKING- ACTIVE LOADING AND UNLOADING ONLY 7:30-8:30 AM, 2:00-3:00 PM

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from a point 370 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 470 feet further east

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from a point 1,010 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 315 feet further east

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from a point 190 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 180 feet further east

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from a point 840 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 170 feet further east

On Reservoir Avenue, south side, from a point 190 feet east of Belmont Street to a point 285 feet further east

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from the east driveway of Hillside School to Oak Hill Avenue (ORD 7327)

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from Hillside School to a point 40 feet west of the east driveway of Hillside School (ORD 3558)

RESCIND NO PARKING HANDICAP PARKING ONLY

On Reservoir Avenue, north side, from the east driveway of Hillside School to a point 40 feet westerly (ORD 7326)

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Morgan**, it was moved to approve.*

3. Communication from Chris Goodnow, Parking Manager, regarding a request from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for the use of the Arms Lot for their walk on October 3, 4 and 5.

*On motion of **Alderman Kantor**, duly seconded by **Alderman Morgan**, it was voted to approve.*

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Vincent stated I would like to ask the committee if they would be okay allowing the Parking Division to just approve requests for the use of the Arms Lot like they do with permits for other areas across the city. If for some reason the applicant is denied their request, it could come before this Committee at that point for an appeal but 99% of these requests could be permitted in a timely manner without waiting for this committee to meet. In my opinion, having it come here delays the planning and approval process for both the applicants and city staff and it does take up time on agendas for something that is most of the time approved anyway.

Chairman Vincent moved to authorize the Parking Division to facilitate public requests for the use of the Arms Lot internally among the departments involved without prior committee approval. Further, if an applicant is denied or feels unreasonably restricted after requesting the use of the Arms Lot, they can come to this committee for consideration.

Matthew Normand, City Clerk, stated every other license or permit in the city is managed by the departments involved in those permits. This is the only one that has been set-up this way. I am not sure why but maybe there were issues in the past. As Chairman Vincent discussed, if someone has an issue after meeting with Mr. Goodnow, they can always come to this committee and be put on an agenda.

Alderman Barry stated the unfortunate thing is sometimes he may deny the request and time may be of the essence and we are meeting. For example, in the summer when we only meet once a month. That could determine whether someone has an event or doesn't.

City Clerk Normand stated I believe Mr. Goodnow would need to see the schedule. It would be no different than it is right now. That applicant needs to know that they have to send their information to me to get on your agenda. They would be sending this to Chris in this case and I think it starts there anyway. If he sees there is going to be a problem, he needs to get in touch with us and we will get it on an agenda in a timely fashion.

Alderman Barry asked we can reverse this action if it isn't working.

City Clerk Normand answered of course.

Chairman Vincent stated I didn't want to take the authority away from the committee but at the same time I am letting Mr. Goodnow run with it as he should.

Chris Goodnow, Parking Manager, stated what I will do is put together some parameters and a protocol. So as soon as I get an application, I will review it immediately and instead of having to type a letter and send it to you and wait until the next meeting, if it is a no, I will immediately send something to this committee. I will create a form stating what the application is and why I am denying it. Will that work?

Chairman Vincent replied yes.

Alderman Barry stated I am fine with it as long as we are doing as much as we can to assist the public or private entities that want to do something. I guess some of these people ask for it every year.

Mr. Goodnow responded right and some of them need to be reviewed. We are really running out of parking in that area so I am more of a stickler about it now and ask for certain things. If the Board decides they want to go in a different direction, we will do that.

Chairman Vincent stated there needs to be transparency and I believe there will be plenty of that.

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

There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Morgan**, 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