

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & TRAFFIC

December 3, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Chairman Vincent called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs.: Alderman O'Neil, G. DiTullio, T. Clougherty, C. Dobbins

1. The Traffic Division has submitted an agenda which needs to be addressed:
NO PARKING ANYTIME
On N Russell Street, both sides, from Whitford Street to a point 400 feet south.
Alderman Morgan
SCHOOL ZONE- 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT
On Putnam Street between Blucher Street and Dubuque Street
Alderman Vincent
RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME
On N Russell Street, both sides, from Whitford Street to Arah Street (ORD 10922).
Alderman Morgan

Matthew Normand, City Clerk: Also included is an addendum which was handed out to you this evening. The addendum calls for No Parking Anytime on Dunbar Street, both sides, from Sundial Avenue to a point 755 feet south.

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

2. Communication from Robert Duval, Chief Engineer at TFMoran, Inc., requesting the following improvements at the Pearl Street Lot Development site:
 - Marked crosswalk across Orange Street at its Elm Street intersection;
 - Marked crosswalk across North Church Street West Back at its intersection with Pearl Street;
 - Removal of ten (10) on-street parking spaces on North Church Street East Back.

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

3. Information submitted by the Police Department regarding electric bicycles.
(Note: Provided for informational purposes only; no action is required.)
4. Discussion regarding parades and events in the City of Manchester.

Alderman O'Neil: Since this decision was made to shift parades, and I've learned it's now impacting events in the city, I've done my homework. I've spoken to folks in Concord. I've spoken to folks in Nashua. Nashua just put on an almost two-mile Veterans Day parade with little fanfare. And I think we have tried to, here in the city, make one size fits all by

limiting what events can be between Bridge and Central. Whereas, Nashua put on a parade that might not be quite two miles, maybe more than a mile and a half. They treat that as one event with limited security concerns. But they just had their Christmas stroll downtown between certain streets and you know, they expect 25 to 30,000 people. That just happened last Saturday. Now that was brought up to a higher level of security and safety. I learned in Nashua, the city puts up \$30,000 to put the event on right now. I can't talk about events. Other than the Saint Patrick's Parade, the departments have to eat the costs in their budgets. We don't put any money into it. And I think that's sad. We want these events, but we don't contribute any money towards them, so the departments have to take it out of their budgets. Saint Patrick's Parade is privately funded and \$53,000 pays for city services, entertainment, etc. I was bothered by something, I've also learned by talking to people in Concord that they've had their Christmas parade already on Loudon Road with not a lot of fanfare. The distribution lists from the City Clerk is 33 people. When somebody applies for a permit, why does it need to go to 33 people? And I'm not even sure department heads are on it. Something's wrong with that. I was hoping the BMA might vote to restore the parade routes to Salmon and Elm for the Christmas parade. I have no idea how this is going to impact it and trying to stage everything. But I will say this, and it was pointed out to me after the Veterans Day parade, we should not be staging a single unit on the Bridge Street Bridge. On the interior of it, there's limited fencing with the guardrails. If an adult or a child ever ended up falling over, the liability to the city would be great. And that's something I think this committee should take very, very seriously. I don't care what's going on, even if there isn't a decision to change back to Salmon and Elm for the Christmas parade, we should not be staging anything on the Bridge Street Bridge. That is a safety issue. Mr. Chairman, the ball is in your court.

Alderman Barry: I agree with Alderman. O'Neil. I just think if it's not broke, don't fix it. And the parades and everything have been working out well. Brady Sullivan offers us a great location where they even open up their building if people need to use the restrooms and the heat that's in there. Because especially the Christmas parade and even sometimes the Saint Patrick's Day parade, it's chilly outside and people that are staging there, especially the young kids, the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or any of the kids that are involved, it gives them an outlet, gives them a place to go and to use the restrooms and so on. But I think one of the major things is it's a great area for staging. There's a lot of floats, a lot of different bands and different people that show up here. That Saint Patrick's Day parade has quite a few so they need a larger space. And the Bridge Street Bridge, you may get away with it for Veterans Day parade, which is a lot smaller than the Christmas and the Saint Patrick's Day parade, but I just don't think it's feasible to just use Bridge Street as a starting point for every parade. You know, maybe can get away with the Veterans Day parade, but safety is another issue.

Alderman Kantor: I agree 100% with Alderman O'Neil. Safety should be our number one priority with everything that's going on across the nation. We need to protect everyone, including our first responders and people that are coming to enjoy the beautiful Christmas parade. And I 100% think we should roll it back. And if it's not broke, why change it? I totally agree with Alderman Barry. On another note, if it's not broke, why did we change the name? And I would add in that we need to change it back to Christmas Parade. And I was raised Jewish, so coming from a girl that was raised Jewish, I believe in bright lights for everyone and honoring every religion because it's a Christmas parade for everyone.

Alderman Goonan: The parade seems short now, but I'm sure the police department, the fire department get together. They have their reasons. I'd just like to hear why we want to make this change. And when's the Christmas parade? A few days away. How many more cops do police have to hire? Or is it even possible to hire at this point? It's got to be another dozen cops. I don't know if we can act on this particular parade. But I do think that we need a new way to permit these things and plan these things. I know when I was a department head, there was someone walking around getting sign-offs from who knows how many departments. So, I agree with you 100% with that. But this parade now, I just don't know.

Alderman O'Neil: I understand that and respect it, but if there was a chance to bring it back to what it was, I think they could. I'm not speaking for the Christmas parade. I'm not involved other than I like to go and watch it. I just think trying to stage them on the bridge was wrong. I know they've talked about trying to use Spring Street. I don't know if you can get all those floats down in there. So, my point in talking to Concord and Nashua and reporting back is one size doesn't fit all. They take each individual event and they make decisions based on an individual event. And that's what I'm trying to pass on. And that's what we should do, is judge each event. If there's a severe enough risk, then the event shouldn't happen. There are threats that are made. The event shouldn't happen. But just to take a one size fits all approach, which appears to be what's going on, and there was no conversation with the community, which I think stinks. But those are my two points. Most important thing tonight, I think, is staging on the Bridge Street Bridge. When somebody, after the Veterans Day parade, mentioned it to me, my heart dropped and said, if we ever had somebody fall, I wouldn't have a clear conscience.

Chairman Vincent: I certainly think it's something that can be looked at in those angles. I personally think that the mitigating risk factors that were considered to make this decision were not taken lightly. I definitely think there's merit to the change. I understand we've been doing things for a long time. That doesn't mean it's right. That doesn't mean it's wrong. But I do think times do change. And I think that to take what our professionals are saying and not taking it for granted, I think is putting a lot of liability on us. I personally don't want to go against the police or fire department with their safety mitigations. But we will go with the will of the board. I do think this is something that we can bring up and discuss tonight.

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to refer the discussion to the full Board this evening.*

TABLED ITEMS

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Morgan**, it was voted to remove both items from the table.*

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

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On N Russell Street, both sides, from Whitford Street to a point 340 feet south.

Alderman Morgan

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On N Russell Street, both sides, from Whitford Street to Arah Street (ORD

10922).

Alderman Morgan

(Note: Tabled on November 18, 2025.)

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to receive and file.*

6. Communication from the Parking Manager requesting the No Parking signs on both sides of Zaratzas Avenue be changed to read No Parking Tow Zone.

(Note: Information from the Police Department regarding towing is attached.)

(Note: Tabled on November 18, 2025.)

Alderman Kantor: Question on everything that was sent to us. Will you be able to enforce everything?

Gregory DiTullio, Police Lieutenant: As far as the towing goes?

Alderman Kantor: Yes.

Lt. DiTullio: I wasn't sure what you were actually proposing. I was asked to send a brief overview of what the city's capabilities are with our city tow contract as it relates to snow emergencies and odd even parking throughout the winter months. I know that it has to stem around Karatzas Ave., that is my understanding. So, we just had a snow emergency last night. We were up there last night. There was one car parked on Karatzas Ave. So, on Karatzas Ave right now, currently, there's no parking on the westerly side of Karatzas as you go up the hill. And the change that wants to be made is that you want no parking on both sides of the street. Is that correct?

Alderman Kantor: I think it's supposed to already be both sides of the street.

Lt. DiTullio: I believe it was on both sides of the street was what was proposed.

Alderman Kantor: Originally it was always both sides of the street.

Lt. DiTullio: I think it's only on the westerly side and not both sides of the street.

Alderman Kantor: I know that Faye is not here, and she had walked the area and she agreed that it was completely unsafe. We were just trying to come up with some solutions.

Lt. DiTullio: So you have a general idea of what the tow contract consists of, it's renewed every two years. And currently we have five tow companies on that tow contract list. So, with that tow contract list, there's certain stipulations that have to be met throughout each calendar year. It relates to the times that the tow companies have to respond to an actual tow to snow emergency operations. What it doesn't cover is if DPW decides to do some event where they need to remove some cars from the roadway, and they post no parking on a street and then tow from that area during the normal course of business during the daytime. The tow companies have 20 minutes to respond to that location, to retrieve the vehicle, to remove it. So within an eight hour time frame, you may only tow eight vehicles

or ten vehicles. It's very time consuming. Whereas in snow emergency operations they're required to bring two trucks to every snow emergency. And we have them there for a duration of eight hours from ten at night till six in the morning. It's a little different with the snow emergency operations compared to going to Karatzas Ave on a Friday morning, and there's 40 cars out there. And having to tow them. So currently, right now, I think the language that's on the street sign is just no parking.

Alderman Kantor: Yes, I think you're correct on that.

Lt. DiTullio: So currently right now in the city, we don't tow vehicles currently right now that are parked in no parking zones. Most likely they'll end up getting a citation. Some of the signage that we changed over the the last couple of years with the street sweeping operations that we've been doing in the downtown area, all that signage has been changed to reflect that the vehicles will be towed from the roadway.

Alderman Kantor: I guess the thing is, if it's an emergency snow, you're going to tow it if they're out on the streets.

Lt. DiTullio: Correct. So, the Department of Public Works dictates where we actually tow from and where we ticket every snowstorm. So, at the beginning of every snowstorm we get notification from them on where we're going to go and what we're going to do.

Alderman Kantor: So DPW directs you on where to tow?

Lt. DiTullio: Correct.

Alderman O'Neil: Lieutenant, just something that I'm a fan of and you've used effectively, and I don't know that you need Public Works to direct you, when a snow emergency is declared, you can put a ticket on the car. That's \$125. Am I right?

Lt. DiTullio: \$150.

Alderman O'Neil: \$150. That, to me, is effective, especially with the limited number of tow trucks we have to tow cars, and it generally gets the attention of the people.

Lt. DiTullio: Correct.

Alderman O'Neil: We don't need tow trucks to ticket. There were cars on one ways that never got a ticket last night.

Lt. DiTullio: Correct. We have limited staff that's out there ticketing. We have limited plow truck drivers as well, and unfortunately, not every street gets hit. So that's why there's a rotating list of where we go throughout the city throughout the course of the winter with the different snowstorms. But last night we went up to Karatzas Ave. Eastern Ave was actually full of vehicles. They all received those \$150 tickets. If we were to go to Eastern Ave and tow, the impound lot can only hold roughly about 250 vehicles. And if you went over to Eastern Ave last night, I don't know what was over there, but it sounded like there was a significant amount of cars. They were parked on the correct side of the street for odd even, but it was a snow emergency, so we still ticketed them. But if we were to tow

all those from Eastern Ave, Lake Ave, Spruce Street, Hanover Street, Valley Street, Elm Street, then all the major thoroughfares to get to all the hospitals would never get touched. It is very difficult to go to a certain area and spend the whole night towing from one specific location when there's 40 to 50 vehicles just on Eastern Ave, and then the rest of the city, it's kind of just one of those things where the vehicles end up remaining in the roadway throughout the rest of the city.

Alderman Kantor: It sounds like we need to readdress this and have more tow truck companies.

Lt. DiTullio: We would love to have more. We put it out every two years, and this is what we have. We only can have companies that operate here in Manchester that have a lot in Manchester. So, we're limited on who we have operating on this tow contract.

Alderman Kantor: Maybe we need to look into that.

Alderman Barry: As far as capacity, where they tow the cars to has a certain capacity. So, there's only so many you can actually tow to the lot. And don't forget the west side, because it is not easy. It's difficult. We have quite a few on the west side that park illegally during snowstorms that also need to be dealt with. So, I know it's a tough situation, but I think Tim and you can address it. How many cars can go to Derryfield? How many cars can you actually tow there?

Tim Clougherty, Director of Public Works: About 220, 240, something around there.

Alderman Barry: And we had 167.

T. Clougherty: That's correct. I just wanted to clarify one point. DPW is involved in identifying areas to tow and ticket during snow emergencies. But at any time, if there is a safety situation that's brought to our attention or the attention of the police department, Public Works does not need to be involved. We're not directing where to tow vehicles. We will ask PD to ticket vehicles and tow after a storm when we have challenges with narrow streets. But if anybody else sees those, those can be identified and they can be towed. Whether the signage there says that they can be towed or not, if it says no parking, they still have the ability to tow.

Alderman Kantor: So, the best thing to do is for someone to contact you to handle the car situation.

Lt. DiTullio: On Karatzas Ave?

Alderman Kantor: Yes. When people can't get out of their driveway, when people can't get down the road, who do they call directly? Obviously not 911.

Lt. DiTullio: They can contact us. But like I said, if there's 20 cars, we're not going to be able to tow 20 cars out of there. If there's 40 cars, we're not going to be able to tow 40 cars out of there. The logistics of being able to do that, it's not feasible with what we currently have. So, these tow companies also have to have a location to bring these vehicles to. The snow emergency operation, it ends roughly tonight up at the impound lot

up at the Derryfield Park. The remaining cars that are left at the Derryfield Park all go back to the respective tow companies lots. So, part of the tow contract is that they have to have 20 available spots for police tows. So now say we have 250 vehicles that we tow. This last one was right around 170, I believe, and then say each company brings back ten vehicles to their lot. Now they have another ten spots between all their outside tows for room to bring more tows back into their lot. So, storage and space is an issue as well. So logistically it sounds very easily done, but it's not. We can definitely try to move these vehicles, we can ticket the vehicles. And you're more than happy to give me a call when there is an issue up there and we can look at addressing it appropriately. But I didn't want to get your hopes up to tell you that the vehicles didn't get towed unless there is an emergency situation where we work with Chief Cashin as well. If there's an issue with trying to get fire trucks or ambulances up there, obviously we're going to get them moved and we'll figure out where we're going to put the cars later on.

Alderman Kantor: Well, I know the ticketing helped last night.

Caleb Dobbins, Chief Highway Engineer: I just want to clarify that Karatzas Ave is no parking on both sides. And I think that this issue often arises actually after the snow emergency where everyone empties the lots out, the private lots, and they park all those cars on the street. So, if you go during the middle of a snowstorm, you're not going to have an issue on Karatzas. The issue is after the snow has ended; what happens is they come out and they park. From the pictures you sent alderman, they park on both sides of the street and you can't get a fire truck through there. So according to both the state and the city ordinances, that would constitute a hazard. And it's in an area that parking is not allowed. If it was a legal parking area and it was after the snowstorm, then you could only basically ticket them. It's only if it's causing a hazard and it's in a no parking zone, that is when the ability to actually tow comes in if you have the resources to actually tow which is what you're being told really doesn't exist. So, the opportunity exists out there. It's just the resources sounds like they're not there and there is no parking on both sides of Karatzas.

Chairman Vincent: I appreciate all the input from all parties.

*On motion of **Alderman Goonan**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to receive and file.*

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

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee

Meeting Start Time: 5:30PM

Meeting End Time: 5:54PM

Minutes Prepared By: Michael Intranuovo