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City Manager

CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Matthew R. Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects

DATE: July 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Community Drive No Parking Ordinance

Recommendation:

Accept the following report and set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-6, Parking Prohibited at All Times in Designated Places, Schedule I (Parking Prohibited at All Times) for public hearing on September 9, 2019.

Background:

On May 6, 2019 Jack Shields, Penacook resident contacted the City with concerns about on-street parking at Community Drive in the area of Summer Street. Specifically, Mr. Shields was concerned that on-street parking, which is permitted on both sides of road between Merrimack and Summer Streets, creates a bottleneck during peak traffic times, thereby impeding the flow of traffic and creating a safety hazard. Mr. Shields requested that the City take action to address his concern.

Community Drive is approximately 28' wide at this location. In addition to serving the neighborhood, the road also serves Merrimack Valley High School and Middle School campus, as well as Rolfe Park.

Discussion:

The Parking Committee met on June 27th to review this request. During its review, the Committee noted that Community Drive experiences significant utilization in mornings and afternoons associated with Merrimack Valley School District arrival and departure times. It was also noted that traffic has been observed to back up from Canal Street to Summer Street during the afternoon shortly after school dismissal times. Further, signage currently exists which prohibits parking on the east side of Community Drive between Canal Street and Merrimack Street. However, no ordinance currently exists for this restriction.

Guidelines being used by the Parking Committee in conjunction with their ongoing Narrow Streets Project indicate that on-street parking would only be permitted on one side of the road for a 28' wide roadway with moderate traffic such as Community Drive.

For these reasons, the Parking Committee recommends that the City Council approve the attached Ordinance prohibiting parking at all times along the east side of Community Drive between Canal Street and Summer Street. This ordinance will address traffic and safety concerns, as well as formally codify the current no parking zone existing between Canal and Merrimack Streets.