



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Parking Committee

DATE: January 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Consent Report: Response to Referral Regarding On-Street Parking on Narrow Public Streets

Recommendation:

Accept this report.

Background:

During its January 9, 2017 meeting, the City Council referred an inquiry from Dan and Joanne Magarian of 17 Albin Street concerning City policies regarding on-street parking on narrow public streets.

Discussion:

The Parking Committee met to discuss the referral on January 23, 2017. As the Committee began its review, Councilor Champlin clarified that the residents who filed the referral were seeking input from the City concerning year round parking policy for narrow public streets, not just policies related to parking during the winter months.

The Parking Committee's discussion included a review of City Ordinance 18-1-4. Adopted in 1977, this Ordinance stipulates that on-street parking shall be prohibited on any street, or section thereof, whenever a 12' wide or greater travel way cannot be maintained. This ordinance is important as it ensures sufficient travel way for emergency response vehicles, garbage trucks, delivery vehicles, as well as large General Services Department vehicles and equipment. It was also noted that there are streets within the City that have on-street parking, but do not comply with this Ordinance. Examples included Perry and Chapel streets.

During the course of its meeting, the Committee reviewed a report that was jointly prepared by the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) in 2009 concerning parking on narrow streets during winter months. The report was accepted by the City Council that year. The report reviewed various options to address the issue, and specifically recommended that the City continue its historical practice of installing temporary "emergency no parking signs" on narrow streets whenever the combination of snow banks and on-street parking would

result in public safety concerns or otherwise impede traffic. Further, the report suggested that any street 28' wide (measured from curb face to curb face) with parking on one side, or 36' wide with parking on both sides, would not satisfy the 12' travel way requirement during the winter months set forth within City Ordinance 18-1-4 presuming 4' wide snow banks on each side of the roadway.

As part of its discussion, the Committee also reviewed a list of City streets prepared by the City Engineering Division. Compiled approximately a decade ago, the list indicated that the City has 549 public streets. Of this total, 526 streets have an average width of 36' wide or less (96% of all public streets) and 413 Streets have an average width of 28' or less (75% of all public streets).

At the conclusion of its discussion, the Parking Committee asked City Administration to meet with representatives of the Police, Fire, General Services, and Community Development departments to:

- 1) Develop criteria to establish what constitutes a "narrow street";
- 2) Develop a comprehensive list of narrow streets based upon the aforementioned criteria;
- 3) Further hone the list of streets to specifically identify those narrow streets which have on-street parking and are problematic with regard to public safety, maintenance, or traffic flow whether seasonally or year round (so-called "problematic narrow streets"); and,
- 4) Provide recommendations regarding potential changes in parking regulations, traffic patterns, or both on an individualized basis for each "problematic narrow street".

Subject to timing of the City Administration's meeting with said departments, it is the intention of the Parking Committee to continue its review of this issue at its February meeting. It is unclear how long the Parking Committee's review of this issue may take at the present time. Should the Parking Committee ultimately desire to recommend any proposed changes to parking or traffic regulations on any of the "problematic narrow streets", the City Council would have to hold public hearings in order to amend applicable Ordinances. Prior to proposing any Ordinance changes to the City Council, it is anticipated that the Parking Committee would hold neighborhood meetings to educate residents and property owners on affected streets about proposed changes, as well as to get their input prior to moving forward with any specific proposals.