



**CITY OF CONCORD**  
*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
**Community Development Department**

## **REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**From:** Timothy J. Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development  
**Date:** February 10, 2025  
**Subject:** Social Worker Parking Passes (City Council Referral to Parking Committee)

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### **Recommendation:**

Accept this report.

### **Background:**

On November 27, 2023, the City Clerk received a request for referral by Pembroke Resident Safiya Wazir asking that the City Council refer her request for “parking passes” for social workers who utilize public places to do supervised visits and work closely with the State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Division of Children, Youth, & Families (DCYF). During its December 11, 2023, the City Council referred the request to the Parking Committee for review.

The Parking Committee discussed the referral on January 29, 2024 and March 25, 2024. The below summary of the Committee’s discussion and recommendation is provided for the City Council’s consideration.

### **Discussion:**

During its January 29, 2024 meeting, the Parking Committee and City Staff had a preliminary discussion of Ms. Wazir’s request and background on the circumstances that led to it. Ms. Wazir was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

The Parking Division reported that Ms. Wazir received a parking citation for a time zone violation on Union Street. (On-street parking on Union Street is non-metered, and regulated with a 3-hour time limit). As a result, Ms. Wazir requested a special City parking permit or pass for social workers visiting clients. The Committee discussed whether existing parking time limits were sufficient in certain locations and if leases or permits could be done outside of garages. The consensus of the Committee was that it should be the employers’ responsibility to compensate social workers like Ms. Wazir for employment related parking expenses, but tabled further discussion of the issue item until Ms. Wazir could be in attendance.

During its March 25, 2024 meeting, the Parking Committee continued the discussion, with Ms. Wazir present at the meeting.

Ms. Wazir discussed that as a local social worker she utilized the Concord Public Library often for supervised visits with children and families as a subcontractor for NH Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). In other communities, she has access to free parking where her meetings take place, but no such free parking exists for her for her Concord meetings. Given she typically has very young children with her for the meetings, Ms. Wazir needs to park in close proximity to the Library, for 2 hours at a time minimum. While she is reimbursed for parking fees, she stated that using the mobile app made it difficult to get receipts for processing with her employer, and her employer only reimburses for fees, not for parking violations.

The Committee shared several options for free (time-limited rather than metered) parking relatively near the Library (such as Spring Street, Centre Street, Storrs Street). The Committee also made inquiries about whether other social workers utilized the Library, as well as how many violations Ms. Wazir had received. Ms. Wazir had received only a single violation.

The Committee further provided Ms. Wazir an overview of the City's parking system, stating that permits are only utilized in the City's parking garages, and that on-street parking was either metered, time-limited, or free, depending on location. Committee Chair Todd stated that even if the City has a "free parking" lot, it would be a first come first served type of situation, not altogether different from where Ms. Wazir would have to park in other communities.

The Committee offered suggestions of parking along Park Street, Capitol Street, or School Street, since, at least for the time being, there are fewer on-street parking spaces occupied given the relocation of the NH Department of Justice. It was noted that metered spaces in the City owned lots on Prince Street, as well as those in the State Street Parking Garage, would also be viable parking options for those utilizing the Library. Meter fees at those facilities are \$0.50 / hour, as compared to \$1.00 / hour on street. Ten-hour parking is permitted at the metered spaces located within the Prince Street lots, State Street Garage, as well as on-street near the Library.

Discussion ensued regarding the ability of the mobile app to produce necessary receipts for Ms. Wazir to utilize for reimbursement, and the inability of the app to charge for parking in increments other than 1 hour at a time. City Staff explained that changing the increments is technically possible, but would come at an unknown cost to the City through the vendor. Staff also offered to assist Ms. Wazir with navigating the mobile app to help with her situation regarding reimbursements.

In conclusion, the Parking Committee determined that that a permit program for Ms. Wazir's specific situation would not be appropriate. The Committee recommended that Ms. Wazir work with City Staff and her employer to ensure proper documentation could be provided so that she could seek reimbursement from her employer for parking fees which she incurs in conjunction with her employment. No further action was recommended to be presented to the City Council. Ms. Wazir thanked the Committee for their time, and stated she would return if she had any additional concerns or requests.