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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: June 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Fruit Street Handicap Parking

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 18-1-16, Handicap Parking, Schedule XVIII (Public Parking Spaces Reserved for Physically Handicapped) and Section 18-1-7, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours in Designated Places, Schedule II (Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours in Designated Places) for public hearing on August 8, 2022.

Background:

South Fruit Street is located near Concord High School and the State of New Hampshire's Hugh Gallen Office Park. It is approximately 42.5' wide. Portions located between Pleasant Street and Memorial Field are a School No Parking Zone, September 1 – June 30, from 7AM to 3PM, Monday - Friday.

On February 22, 2022, Brian Bardo, resident of 18 South Fruit Street, contacted the City and requested the establishment of an on-street handicap parking space along the frontage of his property. Mr. Bardo, whom recently moved to Concord, has a walking disability. Although his property has off-street parking, which is accessed from Remington Street, the 14 step staircase used to access the driveway is very challenging for Mr. Bardo given his disability.

Discussion:

The Parking Committee discussed Mr. Bardo's request on March 28, 2022.

It was noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for an on-street accessible parking space typically necessitate 13' feet of shoulder space (i.e. 8' parking bay with 5' wide ramp immediately adjacent to the space). An example of such spaces would include on-street parallel accessible spaces near Merrimack County Savings Bank on North Main Street, which were reconstructed as part of the 2015-2017 Main Street Project.

The roadway shoulder at this location is approximately 11.5' in width.

However, the Committee also discussed alternative standards which govern establishment of accessible spaces not associated with new roadway construction. Said standards have been established by the United States Access Board, which was established in the 1970s prior to the ADA. Per said regulations, the City may retroactively add accessible on-street parking spaces to an existing street. In addition, a 5' wide ramp is not required in situations where the existing sidewalk is less than 14' in width. Therefore, per these standards, the

City can reasonably convert an existing on-street space at this location into an accessible space without having to add sidewalk ramping.

Recognizing this alternative standard, the Parking Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the attached Ordinance establishing an on-street handicap accessible space along the frontage of 18 South Fruit Street as shown below.

Said space shall be expressly exempt from the aforementioned School No Parking Zone regulations (i.e. No Parking September 1 – June 30, 7AM to 3PM, Monday – Friday).

