



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Bradley C. Osgood, Chief of Police

DATE: January 31, 2017

SUBJECT: Consent Report: Referral Regarding Parking on Narrow Public Streets

Recommendation:

Accept this report.

Background:

At its January 9, 2017 meeting, the City Council referred an inquiry from residents of 17 Albin Street concerning on-street parking on narrow public streets. In particular, the inquiry related to parking on both sides of the street and the potential hazards of navigating that street (two-way traffic).

Discussion:

A few days following the January 9th meeting, I conducted a site visit on Albin Street with Parking Manager David Florence. Snowbanks existed on both sides of the roadway. Vehicular traffic was observed to easily flow with the existence of vehicles parked on one side. It is acknowledged that traffic flow would be difficult if parked vehicles were parked directly opposite of one another. In this case, regardless of the existence of snowbanks, traffic flow would be impeded.

We next toured neighboring streets and various other neighborhoods. Albin Street is not unlike many other streets in Concord but there are others that would be of greater concern, especially for public safety vehicles. These include Perry Ave, Essex St., Blake St., Federal St., and Beaver St. to name just a few.

I have reviewed C.O. 18-1-4, a March 27, 2009 report submitted to the City Council by Robert Mack (Chair – TOC) and a draft report from the Parking Committee concerning this matter.

With respect to the March 27, 2009 report filed by Mr. Mack, I concur that the posting of temporary no parking on affected streets due to snow continues to be a good practice. The Police Department/Parking Division will routinely assist in posting identified streets that have travel/parking impacted by snow and communicate with GSD so that they may be addressed promptly. **I recommend that this practice continue.**

I concur with the draft Parking Committee report that City Staff to include Police, Fire, GSD and CD should continue discussions surrounding narrow streets and develop a list. I agree that once a list is established, it is likely that there will be consensus of the most challenging streets from a travel/parking perspective as well as a safety and snow removal perspective. Each street or neighborhood is unique and it is quite possible that there is no one size fits all solution. Rather, each street and neighborhood may have different solutions that best fit that street.

It is additionally recommended that the City Council consider in its review to eliminate on street overnight parking seasonally. The City of Concord, for many years, had an ordinance prohibiting overnight parking year round. This was repealed approximately 7 or 8 years ago. Many of the issues that GSD, Police/Parking and residents face during the winter months could be alleviated with an overnight parking ban. It is recommended that the City Council consider a seasonal overnight parking ban from November 1 – April 1. This would allow a more effective plowing curb to curb and efficient removal of snow on narrow streets and high traffic neighborhoods.