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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

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

DATE: June 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Eastern Avenue Parking Ordinance

Recommendation:

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, for public hearing on August 8, 2022.

Background:

Eastern Avenue is located on the Heights. It is a public, dead end street, approximately 26' in width. Parking is currently unrestricted. The road provides access to four single family homes, as well as an apartment complex.

On August 25, 2021, Paula Cantara contacted the City concerning on-street parking located at Eastern Avenue. Ms. Cantara's parents reside at #10 Eastern Avenue.

Specifically, Ms. Cantara was concerned about vehicles parking on both sides of the street, thus restricting traffic, particularly emergency vehicles. She was also concerned about vehicles parking on the north side of the road, directly behind her parent's driveway, thus making it challenging for them to exit their property.

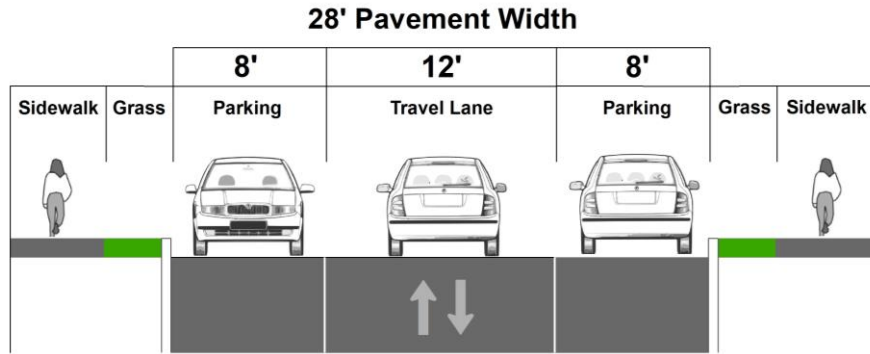
As such, she requested that parking be restricted to the south side of the road.

Discussion:

The Parking Committee initially reviewed Ms. Cantara's request during its November 22, 2021 meeting. The Committee concluded that, at 26' wide, the road is too narrow to have parking on both sides of the street. (Customarily, 28' would be the minimum width required, as articulated in the graphic below).

Section 18-1-4 (a) of the City's Codes of Ordinances mandates that a road must have a travel way not less than 12' whenever vehicles are parked in order to facilitate safe movement of traffic, including emergency vehicles.

28' Minimum Pavement Width Cross Section
Low Traffic Volume Streets; Room to Pass 2 Vehicles is Not Critical; Parking Both Sides



During its deliberations, the Committee also noted that it is the City’s customary practice to restrict parking to that side of the road with the fewest curb cuts (driveways) and utility conflicts (such as fire hydrants) in order to maximize available public parking. Therefore, with respect to Eastern Avenue, it would actually be appropriate to restrict parking to the north side of the road (which was contrary to Ms. Cantara’s request).

In addition, it was the Parking Committee’s perception that vehicles parked on Eastern Avenue could potentially be tenants and visitors of the abutting apartment complex. Therefore, the Committee tabled Ms. Cantara’s request to determine whether it might be possible to work with the abutting apartment complex to change behavior of its tenants and their visitors.

During its February 28, 2022 meeting, the Parking Committee revisited this request. Although members of the Parking Committee had discussed the parking issues with the owner of the apartment complex, there were no changes in the parking behaviors of its tenants and visitors. Therefore, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve an ordinance restricting parking to the north side of Eastern Avenue.

