

CITY OF CONCORD

 $New\ Hampshire$'s $Main\ Street^{ ext{TM}}$ Community Development Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Timothy J. Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development

Date: August 11, 2025

Subject: Consideration of parking changes in the vicinity of Concord High School (City

Council Referral to Parking Committee)

Recommendation:

Accept this report.

Background:

On June 20, 2025, Tony Schinella sent an e-mail to the City Clerk requesting the Council refer to the Parking Committee requests to:

- 1. Increase the maximum parking time on spaces on the north side of Warren Street between Westbourne Road and the entrance to Concord High School (CHS) from 20 minutes to 1 hour;
- 2. Reduce the parking time limit in the spaces on the north side of Warren Street between Westbourne Road and the entrance to Concord High School from 7 a.m. to midnight to 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.;
- 3. Allow parking on the east side of Westbourne Road between Warren Street and School Street from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a maximum of 1 hour;
- 4. Have city staff audit all streets currently designated as "No Parking" within three-quarters of a mile of Concord High School to find areas that can be freed up, for lack of a better term, and changed to one-sided street parking, long-term (the length of the school day), for students and-or residents to park; and
- 5. Direct the Parking Committee to place "Concord High School parking issues" back its agenda, as an item with regular updates on communication between the city and school district about these issues, with an effort to work toward resolving them.

The City Council referred the request to the Parking Committee at the July 14, 202 meeting.

The Parking Committee discussed the referral at their July 28, 2025 meeting. The below summary of the Committee's discussion and recommendation is provided for the City Council's consideration.

Discussion:

During deliberation of Mr. Schinella's requests, the Committee determined that the specific ordinance amendment requests (requests #1, #2, & #3) run counter to the prevailing policy that the Parking Committee and City Council have taken over time regarding parking in the area of CHS, as his suggestions would open up more on-street areas to CHS student parking, whereas the general policy since at least 2004 has been to limit the on-street availability of parking to CHS students. The most recent example of opening up on-street parking in the CHS area resulted in neighborhood issues, and a move back toward restriction of on-street parking (School Street between Pine and Liberty, which has a City Council public hearing on August 11).

Additionally, the changes on Warren Street advocated for by Mr. Schinella are counter to the specific request of the Concord School District in 2018 when the bump-outs/sidewalks were constructed and the City Council (with the recommendation of the Parking Committee) changed the previous 2-hour parking zone on the north side of Warren Street to the current 20-minute timezone.

With regard to requests #4 & #5, the Parking Committee found that the staff "audit" of the areas surrounding CHS for parking restrictions took place in late 2023 have already been reviewed and considered by the Committee, and need not be repeated. Lastly, the Committee determined that a general agenda item on CHS parking on all agendas was not necessary, but the Committee remains open to further discussions with both the School District and CHS administration if they choose to participate, noting that to date participation from the School District/CHS has been difficult to achieve.

In conclusion, <u>the consensus of the Parking Committee was to take no ordinance action at this time, for the above referenced reasons.</u>