



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

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

**DATE:** September 23, 2015

**SUBJECT:** School Street Parking Ordinance

### **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 18-1-6, Parking Prohibited at All Times in Designated Places, Schedule 1 (Parking Prohibited at All Times) for public hearing on November 9, 2015.

### **Background:**

On August 28, 2015, Autumn Van Sice, resident of 30 Merrimack Street, filed a request to eliminate 2 on-street parking spaces located on the southerly side of School Street, between Merrimack and Huntington Streets. She stated the reason for her request was to improve safety at the intersection. Specifically, she believed that the intersection is dangerous because parked cars obstruct the view of vehicles traveling west on School Street towards Merrimack Street. Coincidentally, an accident occurred at this intersection the same day Ms. Van Sice filed her request. City staff met with Ms. Van Sice on September 3rd at the intersection to review her concerns.

Information about this section of School Street and the Merrimack intersection is as follows:

- 1) Parking on this section of School Street is only permitted on the southerly side of the road.
- 2) This section of School Street is approximately 28.5' wide, which is sufficient width to provide for parking and two way traffic.
- 3) Per ordinance, parking setbacks for this intersection are 30'. Field measurements indicate that actual setbacks at the intersection of School and Merrimack Streets range from 33' to 44', thereby exceeding those required by ordinance.

- 4) Traffic count data from November 2009 indicates that approximately 1,100 vehicles use School Street daily (401,500 +/- vehicles annually).
- 5) Accident data compiled by the Police Department indicates that 3 accidents have occurred at the intersection during the period of 2013 – 2015. A summary is as follows:
  - a. 13-55957-AC: Occurred on 12/18/2013 at 2:33 am. A City plow truck was attempting to salt Huntington Street. After crossing School Street due to the ice and pitch of the road the City plow began to slide sideways and came to rest against a parked vehicle.
  - b. 14-15065-AC: Occurred on 4/10/2014 at 4:59 pm. Vehicle was traveling east on School Street and struck a parked vehicle parked in the area of Merrimack Street.
  - c. 15-37819-AC: Occurred on 8/28/2015 at 8:49 am. Vehicle was traveling north on Merrimack Street. Vehicle stopped at the stop sign at Merrimack Street and School Street and proceeded through the intersection. Vehicle collided with another vehicle traveling west on School St. The Operator claimed that she could not see the on-coming vehicle due to the parked cars on School Street. The Operator was found at fault for failing to stop at the stop sign.

Based upon available data, City staff recommended that no changes be made to on-street parking at this location at the present time, as conditions at the intersection are typical of many other intersections throughout the City. In addition, accident data did not reveal any chronic problems at the intersection, given volume of vehicles passing through the intersection on an annual basis (401,500 +/- per year).

**Discussion:**

The Parking Committee met on September 21, 2015 to consider Ms. Van Sice's request. Notice of the meeting was mailed to 23 abutters located within reasonable proximity to the subject parking spaces. The meeting was attended by residents Lisa LaPierre, Ray Phelan, and Lisa Thomas. All spoke in support of removing said parking spaces.

After hearing testimony from those present, the Parking Committee voted to recommend that the City Council approve an ordinance to remove the 2 parking spaces located between Merrimack and Huntington Streets (generally along the frontage of 36 Merrimack Street).

The proposed ordinance replaces Summit Street with Tahanto Street as the terminus for no parking on the south side of the street. This is a housekeeping change in order to make the ordinance consistent with existing signage in the field.