



**CITY OF CONCORD**  
*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
**Community Development Department**

## **REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**From:** Timothy J. Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development  
**Date:** August 11, 2025  
**Subject:** **Meter Feeding / Loading / Parking Permits on Main Street (City Council Referral to Parking Committee)**

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### **Recommendation:**

Accept this report.

### **Background:**

On April 25, 2025, the City Clerk received a request for referral to the Parking Committee by Mayor Champlin, on behalf of Charla Mayotte (owner of Celeste Oliva Olive Oils & Balsamic Vinegars at 8 North Main Street) regarding Meter Feeding, Loading, and parking permits for on-street parking along Main Street.

The City Council referred the request to the Parking Committee at the May 12, 2025 City Council meeting.

The Parking Committee discussed the referral at their June 30, 2025 meeting. The below summary of the Committee's discussion and recommendation is provided for the City Council's consideration.

### **Discussion:**

Ms. Mayotte's first request was relative to the fines associated with "meter feeding," which is prohibited in the Parking Ordinance as an unlawful increase to Parking Meter time (see schedule of fines attached, 1<sup>st</sup> offense is a \$25 fine, second offense is a \$50 fine).

Main Street parking meters (via smart meter or by the kiosks) are time limited to 3 hours. Other areas, outside of the immediate downtown area, are metered for a 10-hour time period. The rationale for the time limits in the core downtown area are to ensure that the limited quantity of parking spaces are being turned over regularly, such that customers can be more successful in securing parking to patronize downtown businesses.

3-Hour meters are not designed to be used by downtown employees, and as such, employees of downtown businesses are encouraged to utilize either the 10-Hour metered areas just outside of

the downtown core area, or one of the 3 municipal parking garages, which are also 10-hour metered, but at half the cost as on-street spaces. Free parking is also available on Storrs Street south of Theatre Street and beneath the Loudon Road overpass to support Downtown employees and patrons.

When time limits on meters are not enforced, data reveals to the City that retail and restaurant customers will compete with downtown employees for parking spaces, and the effect is less customer traffic and patronage to downtown businesses.

Parking Manager David Florence explained at the meeting the ordinance language and enforcement procedures associated with “meter feeding.” Following discussion, Mr. Florence stated that the ordinance does not specify a timeframe between initial and subsequent offenses, so a second offense could be at any time after the first offense tied to a vehicle/license plate.

Ms. Mayotte also requested consideration for a permit to allow for a business employee to park on-street “2 or 3 days per week.” For reasons outlined above, the City does not wish to encourage the use of the limited core on-street parking spaces to be used by downtown employees, even under a permit program.

Ms. Mayotte and the Committee discussed the issues surrounding loading product specific to her retail store, differences between loading and parking, the usage of encumbrance permits, the impact of parking spaces lost during outdoor dining season and the time of day deliveries occur at the facility.

In conclusion, *the consensus of the Parking Committee was to take no ordinance action at this time, direct the Parking Division to allow encumbrance permits for no more than 2-3 times per year for special events for Ms. Mayotte, and committed to both an examination of revisions to the encumbrance permitting process and procedures (at the time rates and penalties are next considered by the Committee and City Council) and to consider a future ordinance amendment addressing the amount of time between offenses for meter feeding offenses (setting a limit on when a second offense is valid).*