



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: June 25, 2019

SUBJECT: PETITION OF 05/28/19 BY HEATHER MACDONALD REGARDING PARKING ON PARK STREET

No Parking/Tow Zone signs were installed on the west side of Park Street, from the intersection with E. Merrimack Street to the intersection with Chestnut Street due to issues with sight distance for drivers exiting onto Park and E. Merrimack Street. The petition noted that the signs were unexpected and she did not receive notice. She requested that the issue be evaluated to come to a fair compromise.

The Transportation Engineer conducted a field visit to the above mentioned location, as well as a review of the current traffic ordinances to determine a fair compromise for the sight distance issue and to ensure on street parking will be available within a reasonable distance from residents.

For the months of April and May 2019, National Grid has been installing replacement gas mains and service lines prior to the Route 38 improvements project and they have been staging equipment along Chestnut Street, which is also impacting parking. That work is ongoing and those spaces are currently reserved. Given that the sight distance is a matter of public safety, some parking restrictions need to remain in place. The Transportation Engineer recommends revising the area to reflect No Parking from 8:00 am-3:00 pm, except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, which will allow residents to park overnight and on weekends, but keeps the road clear during the morning traffic peak. The corresponding ordinance is on the 60-day trial memo for City Council's review and approval.

With regards to notification, the City's 60-day trial process is intended to serve as the trial period for traffic and parking changes and no notification is required. When the ordinance is referred to the City Council on the quarterly memo, a public hearing is held which gives residents the opportunity to comment. However, this issue has been raised before and the Transportation Engineer agrees that when significant change is planned, it might be appropriate to notify residents on the affected street. The Transportation Engineer will develop a policy for notification which could include mailing letters to abutters, emailing a notification to those residents who subscribe to traffic alerts and posting on the City website.

If there are further questions, please contact the Transportation Engineer at 978-674-1417 or via email nvance@lowellma.gov.

NV/ns

cc: Lt. Stephen Gendreau, LPD
Tobias Marx, Parking Director
Natasha Vance, Transportation Engineer