

Memorandum

Date: November 18, 2013
To: Public Safety Committee
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager
From: Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Re: Residential Permitted Parking

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the Public Safety Committee on using a residential permitted parking program as a "tool" to regulate on-street parking along certain residential streets.

City staff received a letter during the early part of September 2013 from a group of concerned citizens that live along Montview Drive (see attached map section) in North Asheville regarding on-street parking issues along their street. Apparently, residents and visitors at a nearby apartment complex (The Woods Townhomes) park along Montview Drive because there might not be adequate parking on-site. A site visit has confirmed that only permitted parking is allowed on-site at the apartment complex and that offenders will be towed. City staff has verified with the on-site manager that the residents are given parking stickers that includes their unit number for their vehicles and visitors can park in areas designated for visitor parking. The on-site manager did acknowledge that several of the residents choose to park along the nearby streets.

As a possible solution to the parking issues along Montview Drive, the concerned citizens have asked City staff to consider establishing a residential permitted parking zone similar to the one that was established for Maxwell Street and Marcellus Street adjacent to Greenlife. Typically, residential permitted parking zones are only established as a "last resort" and after all other reasonable solutions have been tried with little or no success (at this time, there are only two residential permitted parking zones within the city limits including Greenlife and UNCA). Although the purpose of a residential permitted parking zone would be to "free up" parking along a street to be used by the residents of that street, it can also create a burden and/or hardship for the residents. For example, parking for visitors and various contractors (plumber, electrical, yard work, etc.) and possibly having to pay for the administrative costs of the program can be hardships for the residents. From a City staff perspective, this type of program is difficult to administer and enforce with our limited resources.

A site visit indicated and a long-term resident confirmed that on-street parking has been prohibited along the inside edge of Montview Drive for many years but most of the signs are missing. Staff recommends that as a first step, new No Parking signs should be installed along Montview Drive including signs within both intersections with Mount Clare Avenue (areas of concern identified by the Asheville Fire Department). This work has been scheduled and it should be completed by November 15, 2013. Staff will continue to monitor the area and to remain in close contact with the neighborhood community to verify how effective the signs are working in eliminating the parking issues.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

KJP/

Attachment

