

Area 21 Parking Permit Hearing - March 21, 2012

I live on the block just east of Prior and east of the block that has applied for a permit parking extension to include their entire block. I have watched and been a part of the discussion about expansion of permit parking, since I first learned of this effort accidentally in December. Here are my thoughts:

- Our current parking permit process is flawed. For one, I've seen what has happened on the two blocks of Lincoln (east and west of Prior) that are involved in this permit extension. One block (west of Prior) has gone through all the necessary steps to obtain permit parking; and my block (east of Prior) has felt blind sided by this effort and are trying to protect what we now have, which is normally available street parking access.
- It has also pitted neighbors against each other. This is unfortunate, and is a by product of the permitting process itself. Presently,
 - Residents who are having trouble parking on their block can apply for permit parking.
 - This is a block by block process. One block has a problem, follows the city's procedures, obtains the required percentage, and expects to receive permit parking.
 - The pressures in the community for parking then pushes the problem (like squeezing a balloon) somewhere else. Eventually another block gets tired of not being able to park in front of their home and applies for an extension of permit parking to cover their block.
- There doesn't appear to be a comprehensive plan to look at the causes of crowded streets and determine what city policies may be contributing to the problem and then trying to correct those policies. I propose that the City Council require a review of parking in our area and develop a plan to address it proactively, rather than the current permitting procedure which doesn't deal with the overall issue, is reactive, and pushes the problem somewhere else.
- Since I learned of this issue in December, these are some of the reasons for parking pressures that should be studied for a solution:
 1. Additional student rentals (four students usually equals four cars plus their guests), particularly in the last 10 years. I believe the block of Lincoln applying for the permit now has four or five student rentals. That's 16-20 cars plus their guests.
 2. Restricted parking on Grand Ave. Every Monday and Tuesday from 2-7AM, one side of the street is closed to parking. This is overkill. This restriction should be reviewed and changed. What often happens is that cars are moved to Lincoln on Sunday and Monday evenings, and some are left there all week until they need their cars again on the week end.
 3. Students & Faculty parking on our streets to save the expense of parking on campus. The steady expansion of UST has created additional parking pressure on our streets. Is anyone in the city considering the ramifications of this

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expanding population? Can anything be done to get more students and faculty to park on campus where I understand there is ample parking?

4. Not enough parking for the many apartment buildings on Grand, but this is not a new issue; and is not something that I believe has changed in the last decade where the residents to my west would have seen a decrease in street parking.
5. Residents west of Prior have mentioned people drive their cars to streets adjacent to the bus stop and leave them to catch the downtown bus.
6. The restricted parking permit application process itself, which moves a parking problem from one block to another.

Thank You,

Clarence Chaplin
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