
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 4, 2009

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Public Safety Committee Approves Permanent 24-Hour Parking Zone Near Downtown *Full Common Council to Take Up Issue on June 16*

Today the Common Council's Public Safety Committee voted 4-1 to recommend adoption of an ordinance to make permanent a program allowing residents who live near downtown to park for five days consecutively on city streets without fear of tickets or towing.

The ordinance designates streets bounded by and including E. North Ave., N. Prospect Ave., E. Juneau Ave., N. Milwaukee St., N. Water St., E. Kane Pl., N. Warren Ave., E. Boylston St. and N. Cambridge Ave, as well as the streets within the rectangle bounded by and including E. Juneau Ave., N. Prospect Ave., E. Wells St. and N. Milwaukee St. as covered by the ordinance. It would also include the one-block of E. Juneau Ave. from N. Prospect Ave. to its bluff top eastern terminus.

The ordinance would be in effect only from March 1 to November 30 annually.

Ald. Robert J. Bauman, original co-sponsor of the 2007 legislation creating the pilot 24-hour parking resolution, said making the designated areas permanent makes sense. "We are talking about a large, densely populated residential area where street parking can be a dicey proposition, and it is made worse by the city requirement that all vehicles must be moved at least once every 24 hours," he said. "In effect, this ordinance will allow a resident who walks or takes the bus to work to keep their vehicle parked on the street (Monday through Friday) in one place until they need to drive on the weekend."

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Permanent 24-hour Parking Areas/ADD ONE

Under the measure approved by the committee today, the city's 24-hour parking enforcement would allow legally parked vehicles in the designated areas to be parked on residential city streets during daytime hours for no more than five days consecutively. Parked vehicles would have to be in compliance with all city parking rules (i.e. not within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, not blocking a driveway, etc.) and would need to display valid daytime and night parking permits.

Also, all other parking restrictions and parking requirements remain in effect in the specified areas, including metered parking, hourly restrictions and parking prohibitions. A vehicle would not qualify if deemed to be an abandoned or nuisance vehicle (flat tires, broken windows, etc.).

Alderman Nik Kovac, co-sponsor of the ordinance, is an avid bicyclist whose east side 3rd District includes a high number of other downtown commuters who prefer choosing not to use their vehicles to get to work and school. "I bike to work almost every day, and it's beneficial for the city to provide alternative options, including bicycling, the bus, walking, or carpooling. These alternatives minimize traffic and reduce energy consumption and the emission of greenhouse gases," he said, adding: "Citizens should be encouraged, not penalized, for using alternate modes of transportation."

The Common Council will take up the committee's recommendation at its next full meeting at 9 a.m. on June 16, 2009 in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall.