

TCOUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: File #07-02
DATE: March 14, 2002
PREPARED BY: John J. Bajor, Jr., Director of Public Works
Bob Schiller, Assistant Director Public Works Operations
PURPOSE: Parking Restrictions on Forest Avenue North of 41st Street

DISCUSSION:

On Wednesday, March 13, 2002, the Parking and Traffic Commission moved to recommend to the Village Council to restrict parking at anytime for both sides of Forest Avenue at the corners near 41st Street, from 41st Street to a point 50 feet north.

ATTACHMENTS:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT THE INTERSECTION OF FOREST AVENUE AND 41ST STREET.

Recommendation of Parking and Traffic Commission – March 13, 2002

March 13, 2002 Minutes of the Parking and Traffic Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Place this item on the Workshop Agenda for May 14, 2002 for Council review and consideration.

I:\mw\agenda02-itm\P&T#07-02



Village of
DOWNERS GROVE
ILLINOIS

Civic Center

801 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4776
630.434.5500
TDD 630.434.5511
FAX 630.434.5571

*Fire Department
Administration*

6701 Main Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60516-3426
630.434.5980
FAX 630.434.5998

Police Department

825 Burlington Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4783
630.434.5600
FAX 630.434.5690

Public Works Department

5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4074
630.434.5460
FAX 630.434.5495

*Department of
Social & Health Services*

842 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove
Illinois 60515-4761
630.434.5595
FAX 630.434.5599

Village of

Downers Grove Website

<http://www.vil.downers-grove.il.us>

Community Response Center

630.434.CALL (2255)

March 14, 2002

MAYOR BRIAN KRAJEWSKI AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

RE: P & T File # 07-02 Parking Restrictions on Forest Avenue
North of 41st Street

Dear Mayor Krajewski and Council Members:

On Wednesday, March 13, 2002, the Parking and Traffic Commission adopted the following motion:

COMMISSIONER WENDT MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL TO RESTRICT PARKING AT ANYTIME FOR BOTH SIDES OF FOREST AVENUE AT THE CORNERS NEAR 41ST STREET, FROM 41ST STREET TO A POINT 50 FEET NORTH.

COMMISSIONER MCNAMARA SECONDED THE MOTION.

Roll Call: AYE: Mr. Wendt, Ms. McNamara, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Thurston and Chairman Johnson.

NAY: None.

Motion Carried: 5:0

At it's November 2001 Meeting, the Parking and Traffic Commission successfully recommended to the Village Council that parking be restricted on the south side of 41st Street, between Main and Forest from the weekday hours of 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Since this last meeting, excessive parking, which may be attributed to high school parking, has relocated and spread north to adjacent Forest Avenue.

Staff has observed parking occurring on both sides of Forest, concentrated mostly within the first several hundred feet just north of its intersection with 41st Street. Complaints that have been received have been concentrated mostly on the east side. Geometrically this may be explained, as it would be more difficult for a motorist to look to the right backing up to see if traffic were clear.

Sincerely,

Ross Johnson, Chairman
Parking & Traffic Commission
VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

RJ/cc

Ms. Clevenger clarified to the Commission that the crossing guards present near the school are sixth grade students and not adults.

Ms. Elena Castaneda, 4028 Forest Avenue, said that she walks every morning and witnesses vehicles not stopping at intersections. She feels that a yield sign would not be effective and motorists would ignore the regulatory control.

COMMISSIONER WENDT MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL THAT THE WEST SIDE OF FLORENCE, BETWEEN CHICAGO AVENUE AND INDIANAPOLIS AVENUE BE POSTED WITH "NO PARKING ANYTIME", THE NORTH SIDE OF INDIANAPOLIS, FOR THE TWO DRIVEWAYS NEAREST THE INTERSECTION OF INDIANAPOLIS AND FLORENCE BE POSTED WITH "NO PARKING BETWEEN DRIVES" AND THE INTERSECTION OF FLORENCE AVENUE AND INDIANAPOLIS AVENUE BE POSTED SUCH THAT NORTHBOUND FLORENCE AVENUE MOTORISTS MUST STOP FOR INDIANAPOLIS AVENUE TRAFFIC.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Roll Call: AYE: Mr. Wendt, Mr. Stapleton, Ms. McNamara, Mr. Thurston, and Chairman Johnson.

NAY: None.

Motion Carried: 5:0

Chairman Johnson stated that this recommendation would be sent to Village Council. He said that if anyone is interested in attending the Council meeting for this item they should watch the Village Corner section of the newspaper for the Council agenda dates. He further stated that the Village Clerk could also be notified and asked when this agenda item would be brought before Council.

NEW BUSINESS



File #07-02 Parking Restrictions on Forest Avenue North of 41st Street

Chairman Johnson read the Staff Report for File # 07-02.

BACKGROUND

At its November 2001 Meeting, the Parking and Traffic Commission successfully recommended to the Village Council that parking be restricted on the south side of 41st Street, between Main and Forest from the weekday hours of 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Since this last meeting, excessive parking, which may be attributed to high school parking, has relocated and spread north to adjacent Forest Avenue.

STUDY

Staff has observed parking occurring on both sides of Forest, concentrated mostly within the first several hundred feet just north of its intersection with 41st Street. Complaints that have been received have been concentrated mostly on the east side. Geometrically this may be explained, as it would be more difficult for a motorist to look to the right backing up to see if traffic were clear.

Because of blind hills that exist between Herbert and 41st, Staff would recommend to extend whatever parking restrictions are implemented to extend all the way north to Herbert. Staff does not recommend elimination of parking completely for both sides, as this is not necessary based upon existing one way traffic patterns. One benefit of parking on one side is that the average speed of the roadway is reduced. Because Forest is designated as a one way street, more than adequate room would be available to accommodate one-way traffic flow northbound with proposed restrictions.

Additionally, Staff recommends restricting parking for fifty feet north of the intersection, to allow for more room for the larger turning radius of larger vehicles, such as: refuse trucks, emergency vehicles, buses and R.V.'s.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that a positive recommendation be forwarded to the Village Council to:

- **RESTRICT PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF FOREST AVENUE FROM A POINT 50 FEET NORTH OF 41ST STREET TO HERBERT STREET, STATING NO PARKING 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. EXCEPT SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.**
- **RESTRICT PARKING AT ANYTIME FOR BOTH SIDES OF FOREST AT THE CORNERS NEAR 41ST STREET, FROM 41ST STREET TO A POINT 50 FEET NORTH.**

Chairman Johnson asked Bob Schiller if he had anything to add to the staff report.

Mr. Schiller said that as it states in the staff report, one of the reasons staff has not proposed restrictions on both sides of the street is due to the perceived high rate of speed on Forest Avenue. The ability for vehicles to park on one side of the street will give the perception of a narrow roadway and slow down the average rate of speed. Staff has also recommended that 50 feet from the intersection be cleared for emergency vehicles, refuse vehicles and buses to adequately maneuver corners.

Ms. Elena Castaneda, 4028 Forest Avenue, said that she feels that if parking restrictions are implemented the parked vehicles will move to 39th Street and 40th Street. She said that vehicles travel continuously at 40 m.p.h. on Forest Avenue. She witnessed two vehicles drag racing side by side down Forest Avenue last week even with parked vehicles present on both sides of the street.

Chairman Johnson stated that there are two main issues relating to Forest Avenue. The first issue is the reduction of speed on Forest Avenue. The Village has dealt with the issue of high school parking for several years. He concurred that if the parking restrictions are implemented the students will likely park further away from the high school.

Ms. Castaneda expressed concern over vehicles traveling the wrong way down Forest Avenue. She has noticed additional patrol vehicles and appreciates the attention given to Forest Avenue.

Sgt. Jim Nehls, Downers Grove Police Department, stated that he would place additional patrol on Forest Avenue to make speed observations and issue tickets if necessary.

Mr. Vince Pongetti, 4030 Forest Avenue, stated that he feels the parking restrictions would not help the residents on the west side of the road. The restrictions would create a parking lot for the high school on Forest Avenue. He feels that the parking restrictions would create hardship on residents with moderate side lots and short driveways. He would recommend restricted parking on both sides of Forest Avenue.

Mr. Ralph Kalmar, 4140 Forest Avenue, said that from his observations, vehicles travel at a high rate of speed on Forest Avenue. He concurs with Mr. Pongetti that the parking should be restricted on both sides of the street. If parking is not restricted on both sides of the street the restrictions should be limited to the first 50 feet from the corners. He further stated that speeding on Forest Avenue is not limited to high school students only, there are adult motorists that also speed.

Chairman Johnson read emails regarding the proposed parking restrictions received from Philip Bilbro, 3933 Forest Avenue; Mary Walter, 4129 Forest Avenue; and Donna Betz, 4217 Forest Avenue in favor of the parking restrictions.

He further stated that the parking situation near both North and South High School is an ongoing problem that appears to be worse in the Spring.

Commissioner McNamara said that the Parking and Traffic Commission has been working on the high school parking situation for over 15 years. It is a difficult situation as parking cannot be restricted for the high school students without affecting the residents as well.

Chairman Johnson stated that he feels parking should be restricted on one side of the street. If this restriction does not address the problem the Parking and Traffic Commission can readdress at a later date.

Mr. Pongetti said that currently there are not any parking restrictions on Forest Avenue. He does not see a benefit to restricting one side of the street only. He feels this will only push the parking issue further north along Forest Avenue.

Chairman Johnson stated that another option would be to do nothing except address the issue near the corners.

Commissioner Wendt said that he concurs with Chairman Johnson that at a minimum parking should be restricted 50 feet from the corners. He stated that he does not get a clear sense from the residents present that restricting one side would solve the issue.

Commissioner McNamara questioned if the parking would be restricted during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Johnson replied that these are the restrictions typically implemented near the schools. These hours provide the least amount of restrictions for the residents of the area.

Mr. Schiller reiterated two phone messages he had received in regard to the issue. Henrietta Hahn, 4116 Forest Avenue left a message expressing that she is in favor of the parking restrictions. Another message was received opposed to the parking restrictions.

Commissioner Kren feels that parking should be restricted on both sides of Forest Avenue. This restriction would be easier for the Police Department to patrol.

Commissioner McNamara asked if a garbage truck could get through with vehicles parked on both sides of the street.

Chairman Johnson replied that a garbage truck could get through on Forest Avenue but may have difficulty with turning the corner at 41st Street.

Mr. Schiller stated that if restricting one side of the street only is objectionable, he would be inclined to restrict the intersection only and leave parking on both sides of the street. This is due to speeding and perceptions in the area. He further stated that in the design of a roadway, investigating parking restrictions and investigating regulatory control the 85th percentile of speed is considered. Restrictions or regulatory control cannot be implemented based upon the types of situations that appear to be occurring on Forest Avenue. These cases are within the 15th percentile. Staff proposes to restrict parking on one side of the street to reduce the width of the roadway in turn reducing the speed of the vehicles traveling on Forest Avenue.

Commissioner Kren stated that from the comments he has heard from the residents, backing out of driveways and blocked driveways appear to be a concern. The overall safety of the neighborhood would be improved by implementing the parking restrictions.

Chairman Johnson said that it does not appear that there have been complaints regarding blocked driveways but there have been sight distance issue complaints. He feels that only one side of the street should be restricted.

Commissioner Kren questioned if the parking restrictions were implemented on one side of the street would the other side of the street appear before the Parking and Traffic Commission requesting parking restrictions.

Mr. Kalmar restated that if both sides of the street are not restricted that only the first 50 feet from the corner should be restricted.

COMMISSIONER KREN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL TO RESTRICT PARKING ON THE EAST SIDE OF FOREST AVENUE FROM A POINT 50 FEET NORTH OF 41ST STREET TO HERBERT STREET, STATING NO PARKING 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M. EXCEPT SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS AND TO RESTRICT PARKING AT ANYTIME FOR BOTH SIDES OF FOREST AT THE CORNERS NEAR 41ST STREET, FROM 41ST STREET TO A POINT 50 FEET NORTH.

COMMISSIONER STAPLETON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Roll Call: AYE: Mr. Kren, Mr. Stapleton and Mr. Thurston.

NAY: Ms. McNamara, Mr. Wendt and Chairman Johnson.

Motion Failed: 3:3

Chairman Johnson asked the Commission if they had another motion.

COMMISSIONER WENDT MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL TO RESTRICT PARKING AT ANYTIME FOR BOTH SIDES OF FOREST AT THE CORNERS NEAR 41ST STREET, FROM 41ST STREET TO A POINT 50 FEET NORTH.

COMMISSIONER MCNAMARA SECONDED THE MOTION.

Roll Call: AYE: Mr. Wendt, Ms. McNamara, Mr. Kren, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Thurston and Chairman Johnson.

NAY: None.

Motion Carried: 6:0

Chairman Johnson stated that the Police Department and Public Works Department will monitor the situation and if the problem persists the Parking and Traffic Commission will take further action.

Chairman Johnson stated that this recommendation would be sent to Village Council. He said that if anyone is interested in attending the Council meeting for this item they should watch the Village Corner section of the newspaper for the Council agenda dates. He further stated that the Village Clerk could also be notified and asked when this agenda item would be brought before Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

File #21-01 Parking Restrictions on Oakwood Avenue between Grant Street and Ogden Avenue

Chairman Johnson said that the Parking and Traffic Commission has previously addressed File #21-01 at the February 13, 2002 and December 12, 2001 meetings. He then read the Staff Report for File # 21-01.

BACKGROUND

The Parking and Traffic Commission has discussed parking restrictions for Oakwood Avenue, between Grant Street and Ogden Avenue, at it's November 2001 and February 2002 Meetings.

Whether or not the Delta Sonic acquires additional property to accommodate employee parking in the future, the Parking and Traffic Commission may wish to recommend implementing parking restrictions. Since last communicating with the Delta Sonic Car wash representatives, Staff has noticed a reduction in the number of employees parking on street and complaints from adjacent residents.

Staff has previously presented recommendations based upon observation and data collection. Ultimately, the Parking and Traffic Commission must decide the best course of action, appropriately balancing the needs of the community. By taking into account Staff's suggestions and studies, residential concerns, elementary school needs, and Ogden Avenue business desires, the Parking and Traffic Commission is ultimately in the best position to formulate a recommendation to the Village Council.

RECOMMENDATION

As recommended previously, Staff recommends that a positive recommendation be forwarded to the Village Council to establish:

- 1.) NO PARKING ANYTIME - FROM OGDEN AVENUE TO A POINT 200 FEET SOUTH.**
- 2.) RESTRICTED NO PARKING FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. – FROM A POINT 200' SOUTH OF OGDEN AVENUE TO A POINT 460 FEET SOUTH OF OGDEN AVENUE. INCLUDING SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AND HOLIDAYS.**

DRAFT

Orig. 04/26/02

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT THE INTERSECTION
OF FOREST AVENUE AND 41ST STREET**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois,
as follows: (Additions are indicated by shading; deletions by ~~strikeout~~.)

SECTION 1. That Section 14-98 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code is hereby amended as
follows:

14-98. No parking zones—Generally.

No person shall park or let stand, any automobile, motor vehicle or other vehicle at any time in
any of the following locations:

* * *

~~Forest Avenue, on both sides, from the north line of 41st Street to a point fifty feet north of the
north line of 41st Street.~~

* * *

SECTION 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this
ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and
publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest: _____
Village Clerk