



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Traffic and Parking Commission

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CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
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Police Chief Brian A. Kyes

Chair

Sergeant John Nofle

Acting Chair

Rosa Santiago Melendez

Secretary

Lenard Albanese

Fire Chief

Fidel Maltez

Commissioner of Department Public Works

Alex Train

Director of Community & Housing Development

Aaron Kraemer

Resident Member

Carolyn P. Boumila-Vega

Resident Member

Minutes of September 8, 2020

The meeting of the Chelsea Traffic and Parking Commission was held via video conference in the City Council Conference Room, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts. The meeting was opened at 6:14 p.m. by Acting Chairperson Sergeant John Nofle. Department of Public Works Commissioner Fidel Maltez and Director of Housing & Community Development Alex Train were present. The following members were present via video: Deputy Fire Chief Richard Perisie and resident members: Carolyn Boumila-Vega and Aaron Kraemer.

Item #1 – Approval of the minutes from the March 10, 2020 meeting.

Alex Train made a motion to accept the minutes of March 10, 2020. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 – Approval of the minutes from the July 7, 2020 meeting.

Alex Train made a motion to accept the minutes of July 7, 2020. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 – Approval of the minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting.

Alex Train made a motion to accept the minutes of July 28, 2020. Richard Perisie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 – Public Hearing to receive comment regarding a request to amend the current daytime parking restriction on Forsyth and Gardner Street with a two hour limit parking except resident permit 8 am to 6 pm.

Councilor Jamir Rodriguez stated supported the request. He stated that it would be good for the local businesses in the area that are currently struggling for business. Rosaivette Baez, of Bella Isla Restaurant, stated that she was thankful for the thirty (30) minutes spaces that were approved for the area. She stated that the additional parking would help all the businesses in the area, including the barbershop. She stated that they have customers who enjoy the outdoor seating and the additional parking would be beneficial. Councilor Roy Avellaneda stated that when the Silverline was established, the city looked at the 111 bus line and implemented the resident parking daytime restriction on Gardener and Forsyth Street. He noted that amendments have been made for other businesses in residential areas. He stated that their situation is similar to those and to satisfy the needs of other businesses they have submitted this request. Fidel Maltez stated that he does not see a problem with the change but the requestors need to be conscious of the parking enforcement. He noted that parking enforcement will try their best to enforce but may not do so every two hours. Councilor Roy Avellaneda can testify that this area is a regular route for parking enforcement. He stated that he has brought the aggressive enforcement by the officers to the Parking Department's attention. He stated that he has received complaints from the residents of Forsyth Street because there is no parking for their visitors. He stated that there have been adjustments to the program made in other areas to help our residents in the past. Alex Train is in favor of the request. Alex Train made a motion to amend the current daytime restriction on Forsyth Street (from Washington Avenue to Franklin Avenue) and on Gardner Street (from Washington Avenue to



Parker Street) with a two hour parking limit except with residential permit from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Carolyn Boumila-Vega seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 – Communication of November 21, 2019 from former Councilor Luis Tejada, requesting the Commission to look into potentially installing a speed bump, or some other concept, that will force people to minimize their speed on Summit Avenue.

Fidel Maltez stated that this item has been on the agenda for over eight (8) months. He informed the members that there is a lot of construction going on in the area. The Commission is not in favor of speed bumps. He stated that the Commission should look into other possible traffic calming measures. Fidel Maltez made a motion to deny the request. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 – Communication of June 17, 2020, from Councilor Judith Garcia, requesting the Commission to look into creating 15-minute stickers for restaurant delivery employees who are forced to briefly double-park while completing home deliveries.

Alex Train stated that this request originated before the five (5) minute zones that were implemented recently. He stated that the new zones are working for the local restaurants. He stated that double parking would create safety implications. Richard Perisie stated that he is totally against the request. Fidel Maltez received communications expressing opposition to the request. Alex Train made a motion to deny this request. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7 – Communication of July 14, 2020, from Joseph Perlatonda, of 89 Clinton Street, requesting to look into installing speed bumps to slow down speeding traffic on Clinton Street.

Alex Train stated that he spoke with Joseph Perlatonda about his concerns. There was an accident recently and the victim and the residents in the area are complaining about speeding. Alex Train went on to say that he knows installing speed bumps is a controversial issue. Richard Perisie stated that he was not in favor of the request. John Nofle stated that the Police Department has recorded data in that area and speed was not an overall problem. Alex Train stated that there might be another traffic calming measure that can be considered. Fidel Maltez made a motion to table the item pending further investigation of the data collected by the Chelsea Police Department. Aaron Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 – Communication of July 14, 2020, from Lucia Tarantino of 14-16 School Street, requesting to allow Resident Only parking on School Street, along the Emily's Catering building, and a "No Parking" sign across from 14 School Street to prevent anyone from parking directly across the driveway.

Fidel Maltez stated that he has received similar complaints from residents in the past. Due to costs, maintenance and narrow streets, he is not able to post signage for every resident. He stated that he is not in favor of the request. Alex Train stated that the street is narrow which limits the amount of space for emergency vehicles. He is not in favor of the request. Fidel Maltez stated that the area on the side of the building is private property. Richard Perisie stated that this request would block access to their emergency exits and the sprinkler system on that side of the building. Alex Train made a motion to deny this request. Richard Perisie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Item #9– Communication of July 22, 2020, from Louie Gonzalez of Chelsea Propers, requesting the approval of site plans for permanent outdoor seating parklets of four restaurants in the downtown area through November 1, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. *Commission to review the results of the thirty day pilot program for Tijuana's Restaurant that was approved on July 31, 2020.*



Fidel Maltez stated that he had several conversations with Mimi Graney and Louis Gonzalez, who informed him that the only restaurant that took advantage of the request was Tijuana's Restaurant. He stated they are looking to extend the pilot program for another 30 days for only the Tijuana Restaurant. Fidel Maltez made a motion to extend the pilot program for another thirty (30) days. Alex Train seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #10 – Communication of August 31, 2020, from Christine Kidney of Centerboard Inc., requesting the Commission to consider an parking alternative for their company program van as they are no longer eligible for any parking permits due to recent amendments of the Resident Parking Program regulations.

Alex Train stated that there has been a multitude of vehicles parking in the city. He stated that the Parking Department, along with the City Council, have looked into the complaints and concerns of the residents. The city has made changes to the residential parking program which included the elimination of the non-residential parking sticker. Rosa Santiago Melendez stated that she spoke with Christine Kidney, who stated that they need the vehicle parked at the premise twenty-four (24) hours a day in case it is needed. She stated that they need access to the van in case something came up overnight. Rosa Santiago Melendez informed Ms. Kidney that they could call 9-1-1 if they had an emergency. Carolyn Boumilla-Vega commented that not all emergencies need 9-1-1 as some might just need a ride to the hospital or something. Fidel Maltez stated that the members have visited other communities to look into their programs and the resident is the priority. He stated that businesses must find an alternative. Alex Train made a motion to deny the request. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Item #11 – Communication of August 31, 2020 from Commissioner of DPW Fidel Maltez, requesting the Commission to remove the street sweeping signs from all the side streets off of Broadway that have meters that are currently being swept under the typical schedule.

Fidel Maltez stated that some side streets have meters that were being swept on a regular schedule leaving them unavailable for hours at a time. He stated that DPW takes care of Broadway significantly and removes trash by hand. He stated that they can combine the streets with Broadway or remove the meters. He stated that the residents who live on these streets would have to move their cars earlier. Alex Train made a motion to move the item to a public hearing. Fidel Maltez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Rosa Santiago Melendez
Assistant Parking Clerk