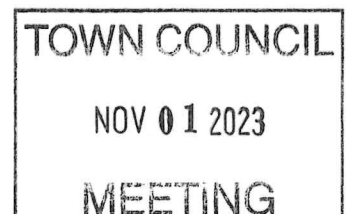
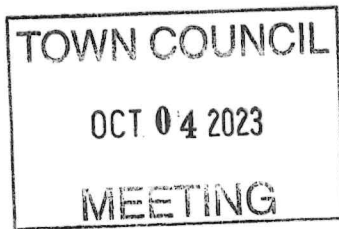


F2. Susan Proto, 245 Chestnut Street re - request no parking on the south side of Chestnut Street adjacent to her mailbox

a. recommendation - Town Administrator and Chief of Police

b. recommendation - Town Administrator and Department of Public Works

Ley/Teixeira- Voted unanimously to continue the matter to November 1, 2023.





PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

*See attached :
4 pages*

2023 OCT 12 11 09 57
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

PLEASE NOTE:

Petition must be returned by 4:00 PM, two (2) Wednesdays prior to the Town Council meeting to appear on the docket of the October 4, 2023 @ 7pm meeting for review and possible action. It is Council policy that action may not be taken on petitions unless recommendations, if necessary, from appropriate departments are received prior to the Council meeting.

DATE REC'D:

TOWN COUNCIL
NOV 01 2023
MEETING

SIGNATURE: Susan Proto

NAME: Susan Proto

ADDRESS: 3T

TOWN: B

BUSINESS TELEPHONE:

RESIDENCE TELEPHONE:

~~TOWN COUNCIL
OCT 04 2023
MEETING~~

3T
3

Dear Town Council Members:

I reside at 245 Chestnut St. and recently I have been having problems with my mail delivery due to Mount Hope High School students blocking my mailbox and preventing me from receiving US Mail. I live on what's called a rural mail route, and the US Postal service has very strict rules regarding rural mail delivery, such as my mailbox cannot be attached to my house, it must be located on the street (USPS requires my box to be on the south side of Chestnut St.), and it must be accessible to the mail carrier to access the box without exiting the mail truck or backing up. See USPS rural route regulations **here: [General Guidelines and Policies for Rural Delivery \(usps.com\)](https://www.usps.com/rural-delivery)**

During the school year, once the Mount Hope High School parking lots fill up, students regularly park on Chestnut St. blocking my mailbox, and due to the USPS rural delivery regulations, mail carriers do not deliver my mail, and risk disciplinary action if they were to stop and exit their vehicle on foot or back up their mail truck to deliver my mail. The USPS is very strict about rural carriers staying in their vehicles and not backing up, and no carrier is going to risk losing their job by exiting their vehicle or backing it up trying to deliver my mail because it is blocked by parked vehicles. I have spoken to the USPS, and they will not allow me to put my mailbox on my house, and they have no authority to enforce no parking in front of my mailbox, and due to this problem, every morning I

am forced to put traffic cones on the street in front of my mailbox to prevent the high school students from parking in the area of my mailbox, and once the school day begins, I'm forced to go outside and remove the cones so the mail carrier can access my mailbox once they reach my home during their route.

From speaking to USPS management, my only viable option is to have the town council pass an ordinance prohibiting parking in front of and directly east and west of my mailbox, allowing enough room for a mail carrier to access my mailbox without having to exit the mail truck or having to back up prior to or after delivering my mail.

I have attached photos to better explain my problem, and if you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.





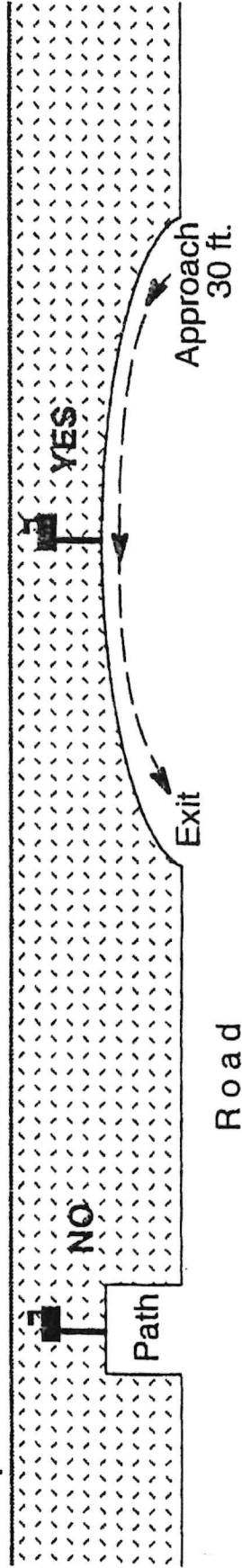


Approaches to Curbside Mailboxes

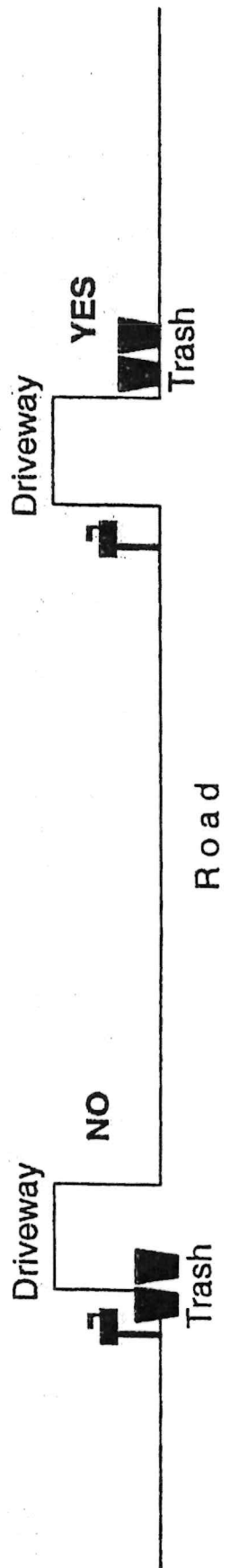
Dear Customer,

The Postal Service depends on you to meet postal requirements regarding delivery and collection of mail to curbside boxes. *Please keep the full approach and exits to your mailbox clear, as illustrated in the examples below.* Removing trash cans, snow, vehicles, and any other objects from the area allows the carrier to deliver your mail safely and efficiently without exiting the vehicle. Your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you. Your Postmaster

Example: Snow Removal



Example: Obstructions (trash cans, vehicles, etc.)





TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

DATE: September 12, 2023

RE: Susan Proto, 245 Chestnut Street re - request no
parking on the south side of Chestnut Street adjacent
to her mailbox

May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the regular Town Council Meeting to be held on October 4, 2023.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office before 12:00 noon on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.
Attachment



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02805
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT PETITION REVIEW FORM

DATE FILED: 09-12-2023

PETITION DESCRIPTION:

Susan Proto, 245 Chestnut St.-request for no parking on the south side of the street adjacent to her mailbox.

PERSON/S FILING PETITION: Susan Proto

LICENSE RENEWAL NEW PETITION

REVIEW:

- APPROVED
- CONDITIONAL APPROVAL
- DENIED
- FORWARD TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

NOTES:

Please see attached.

2023 OCT 27 11 01 AM
TOWN CLERK

REVIEWING OFFICER: Lt. Roman Wozny

DATE COMPLETED: 9-27-23

TOWN COUNCIL
NOV 01 2023
MEETING

~~TOWN COUNCIL
OCT 04 2023
MEETING~~



Bristol Police Department

395 METACOM AVENUE BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809
TELEPHONE (401) 253-6900



KEVIN M. LYNCH
Chief of Police

245 Chestnut Street-petition review:

Susan Proto stated that her mailbox is situated across from her residence at 245 Chestnut St. and Mt. Hope High School students park their vehicles blocking her mailbox. When the mailbox is blocked, she does not receive mail delivery. In reviewing this petition, I met with the Postmaster, Tony Pavao. Mr. Pavao informed me that Chestnut Street is listed as a rural mail route, delivery via vehicle. If the mail carrier is unable to gain access to a mailbox, they will keep all undeliverable mail at the post office. Mr. Pavao stated that they need a minimum of 60 feet of unobstructed access to each mailbox for this type of delivery. From Sherry Avenue to Metacom Avenue, we have a total of 5 mailboxes on the south side of Chestnut Street.

Mr. Pavao also informed me that the homeowner could apply for a hardship permit, if approved by the Post Office, the postal carriers will be able to deliver directly to the residence. It should be noted that we do not have an ordinance or state statute for blocking a mailbox. Motorists are allowed to park at these locations without violation. A request was made to have the School Department make notification to all students, asking them to be mindful not to block mailboxes on Chestnut Street. After reviewing this petition and meeting with Ms. Proto, I do not believe that this request meets the criteria for approval. This issue can be better handled through the Post Office by reclassifying this delivery route or assisting Ms. Proto with delivery directly to her residence.



TOWN OF BRISTOL
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

111 Mt. Hope Avenue
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
Tel. 401-253-4100 Fax 401-254-1278

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Christopher J. Parella
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: September 27, 2023

RE: Susan Proto, 245 Chestnut Street re – request no parking on the south side of Chestnut Street adjacent to her mailbox

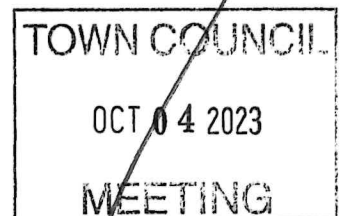
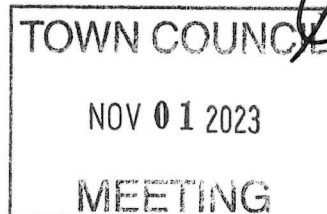
2023 SEP 28 PM 01:15

JOHN GIBBS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Administrator,

I would recommend that the Honorable Town Council **deny** this petition. I believe the petitioner has other viable options and if approved, this would eliminate three (3) on street parking spaces and also set a precedent for the several other residents in this location with RFD deliveries.

Please advise if you have any questions or concerns.



Dear Town Council Members: My wife and I have not been able to receive mail on a regular basis due to Mount Hope High School students parking in front of our mailbox, and I would like to update you on where we are today. The town of Bristol, like many other municipalities in the country, have both USPS "city routes" and "rural routes" for mail delivery, and the difference is that city carriers wear uniforms, generally park their mail trucks along their route, and then walk door to door delivering the mail while carrying a shoulder bag door to door, before getting back in their truck and moving to another area where they repeat the previous procedure. These city carriers punch in at the beginning of the day and punch out at the end of the day, and if they're faced with any unforeseen delays, they are paid overtime wages if their work day exceeds 8 hours. Rural carriers, on the other hand, wear civilian clothes, and their pay is based upon the number of mailboxes they serve, and they do not punch a time clock, nor do they exit their mail trucks to deliver the mail. Their pay is the same whether it takes them 8 hours, 6 hours, or 12 hours to complete their assigned route, and due to this setup, postal regulations and the rural carriers union contract mandate that rural carriers do not exit their vehicle or back up their vehicle during their route, due to the large numbers of customers that they serve.

This brings us to our problem at 245 Chestnut St., where my wife and I live on a rural mail route. Every school day, Mount Hope High School students park in front of our mailbox, prohibiting the rural carrier from servicing our mailbox, and the result is not receiving our mail for days at a time and a warning from the USPS that mail service to our box will be permanently discontinued should our mailbox be continually blocked by high school students parking in the vicinity of our mailbox.

Fortunately, the USPS and the rural carriers union have come to a financial agreement where our carrier will be paid extra for exiting the mail truck and delivering our mail on foot, but this is simply a temporary solution to a problem that is only going to become worse if and when the new Mount Hope High School will be built. If and when the construction begins, streets in the vicinity of the high school are going to be inundated with cars due to a lack of parking at the high school and numerous residents are going to find their mailboxes blocked by cars, and instead of just having a few town residents complain about not receiving their mail, you're going to have hundreds of complaints. And in defense of the high school students parking and regularly blocking mailboxes, most of them are well aware that the town and the state have no ordinances prohibiting parking in front of mailboxes, and they know they can park in front of a mailbox with no legal repercussions.

While my wife and I are personally satisfied with the temporary solution to our problem, I can tell you with certainty that if and when construction on the new high school begins and more and more mailboxes are blocked, you're going to be faced with a much bigger and complex problem, which you might want to begin to address sooner rather than later.

Thank you,

Mike Proto
245 Chestnut St.
(239)877-7337-cell
Mikeproto218@gmail.com