

MEMORANDUM



TO: BEN CROY, CITY ENGINEER
FROM: MARK BOODY, SERGEANT NOVI POLICE
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR NO ON-STREET PARKING
DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Mayor and Council –

Please see the efforts done to date regarding the matter brought before City Council during Public Comment on Monday.

- Victor

I was notified of a parking concern at 216 Wainwright Street. The resident reported that her neighbor across the street at 215 Wainwright Street, parks her vehicle on the side of the road, directly across from her driveway. The resident (Ms. Young) said this hinders her ability to pull in and out of her driveway. Officer Tillman has attempted to resolve this concern by talking with the homeowner at 215 Wainwright Street, with no success.

On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Sergeant Boody met with Officer Tillman at 215 Wainwright Street to address this concern. One concern observed was that the street was very narrow. I observed the resident at 215 Wainwright's vehicle parked on the street, entirely in an approved lane of travel. The resident is able to park her vehicle one foot off the road, but she chooses not to due to a small retaining wall. I find Young's complaint valid; however, the resident at 215 Wainwright vehicle is legally parked, leaving us with no recourse to solve this problem.

This particular community consists of four streets: Wainwright Street, Linhart Street, Paramount Street, and Martin Avenue. All four streets are narrower than a street's normal width, typically 26 to 28 feet wide. I further noticed that there is no shoulder on either side of various streets, in most areas. Vehicles parked on the street were completely parked in the travel lane. As I was driving along Wainwright Street, I was traveling on the opposite side of the street when passing a vehicle parked on the street. As a result, I noticed additional concerns with the narrow streets, as follows:

1. Inadequate on-street parking
2. Accessibility for emergency vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances, and police vehicles)

ROADWAY WIDTH

Linhart Street: 20.3 feet wide

Martin Avenue: 21 feet wide

Wainwright Street: 21.7 feet wide

Paramount Street: 13 feet wide

AVERAGE WIDTH OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

Passenger sedan: five feet - eight inches

Large SUV: six feet - one inch

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Currently, there are no signs prohibiting on-street parking; vehicles are allowed to park on both sides of the above-mentioned streets. Most areas have a drainage ditch on both sides of the streets, which does not allow for a shoulder. Therefore, any vehicle that is parked on the street is actually parked in an approved lane of travel.

The Novi Fire Department utilizes a platform truck to give an aerial advantage while fighting a structure fire. Their platform truck is nine feet wide; however, they need a minimum of 17 feet of working area for the outriggers and a maximum of 23 feet. With that said, the fire department would need 20 feet of unobstructed width to operate. It should be noted that Paramount Street would not allow the platform truck to be utilized.

As mentioned, if a vehicle is parked on the street in front of a structure fire, then this parked vehicle has taken away the ability of the Novi Fire Department to utilize its platform truck. The Novi Fire Department would have less than the 17 feet required minimum working area. Additionally, if two vehicles are parked on any of the streets, across from each other, the fire department would not be able to pass through with any of their fire trucks, same for an ambulance. The fire department would be forced to find a different route; however, the street does not allow them to turn around. They would have to back their fire truck up to an intersecting street in order to turn around. On-street parking severely hinders the fire department in responding to a structure fire or a medical emergency.

This area is located next to Pavilion Shore Park and not far from Lakeshore Park. These two parks attract many citizens and visitors from outside communities, especially since the parks are connected to Walled Lake. These two parks attracted hundreds of visitors during the Fourth of July holiday, which created a parking concern. Several visitors will park on both sides of the above-mentioned streets, making it nearly impossible for an average-sized vehicle to travel through. This would make it completely impossible for the Novi Fire Department to respond to a structure fire or a medical call.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the City of Novi prohibits on-street parking on both sides of the above-mentioned streets. The streets have inadequate room for on-street parking, and vehicles are forced to park completely in an approved travel lane. On-street parking severely hinders a public safety response, especially for the fire department.

Alternatively, DPW could fill in ditches and extend a gravel shoulder on the non-utility (hydrant access side) side of the road. Then, limit parking to the side with the gravel shoulder. This may still not provide appropriate access since cars could still be parked "off the shoulder" and too far into the road. The residents with frontage on the non-utility side may also object to only having parking in front of their residences.

STREETS IN QUESTION

