



Memorandum

May 19th, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Josh Antoine, Chief of Police
Subject: Parking Ordinance

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

On April 7, 2025, residents from the 79th Street and Van Buren Street area brought forward concerns regarding student vehicles being parked near driveways and mailboxes, which they believe pose traffic safety issues within the neighborhood. In response, City Administration and the Police Department collaborated to draft a proposed ordinance to establish clear enforcement standards.

A City Council workshop was held on May 5, 2025, during which the proposed ordinance was discussed. Following consultation with the U.S. Postal Service, it was determined that the revised ordinance would require vehicles to be parked at least 10 feet away from mailboxes citywide between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. During the workshop, residents expressed broader concerns about any parking in the area during school hours and submitted a petition with 19 signatures, requesting that "No Parking During School Hours" signage be reinstated in the neighborhood.

At the Council's direction, further discussions were held with the local school. On May 12, 2025, City Administrator Buchholtz and I met with Principal Boucher to better understand the school's parking policies. Principal Boucher shared that the school currently provides 343 designated parking spaces for full-time student use, which are oversold by approximately 5%. An additional 70 parking spots in the staff lot are made available for part-time students. The annual cost of a student parking permit is approximately \$60 less than that of neighboring schools. Permits are generally limited to juniors and seniors, with limited exceptions for sophomores.

Principal Boucher acknowledged the school's limitations in accommodating all students seeking parking permits and reaffirmed the school's commitment to being a good neighbor. He indicated that the school is willing to support the City and Police Department in educating students about current and future parking regulations in and around the school.

City staff, including patrol officers and myself, have continued to monitor the Van Buren neighborhood. During routine checks, I have observed between 10 to 15 vehicles parked in the area, all of which were parked legally. While this does not rule out occasional issues, our enforcement efforts remain active and ongoing whenever violations are observed.

City Administrator Buchholtz and I have reviewed the ordinance and the potential reinstallation of "No Parking During School Hours" signage. At this time, we recommend updating the ordinance to include the new mailbox parking restriction and allowing staff additional time to explore other potential solutions to address the neighborhood's parking concerns. We believe there are several viable options, but further engagement with stakeholders and residents is necessary before a final recommendation can be made.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions ahead of the upcoming Council meeting—I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,
Josh Antoine
Chief of Police