



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Resolution No. 28 for 2021 - Oak Heights Elementary School Street Parking Change

Preferred Agenda: December 14th, 2021

Submitted By: Jeff Lynn, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Ray Towry, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution X Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: SHMC 10.04.030 Powers of the City Council

Towards Council Goal: Goal #3 – Essential Services – Look for methods to improve community safety and community design.

Attachments: Resolution No. 28 for 2021

Purpose of this RCA:

During November 2021, City Staff was approached by members of the Sweet Home School District Administration with a request to alter the parking along the 600 block of Elm Street, directly in front of the Oak Heights Elementary School. The proposed changes would prohibit parking along the south side of 600 block of Elm Street during student drop off and pick up times on school days.

Background/Context:

During the first part of October, Oak Heights Elementary School staff began discussion with our School Resource Officer on methods to improve traffic flow and safety during student drop off and pick up. The concern is over the fact that both buses and parent vehicles are commingling on the west side of the school where students have historically been dropped off and picked up. This has created significant congestion, schedule issues, safety issues and a bottleneck of traffic attempting to pull out onto Elm Street during these times.

Staff has devised a plan to separate buses and parent vehicles. The proposed plan would have buses drop off and pick up students along Elm Street, directly in front of the school. This would remove the buses from the parent drop off which would remain on the west side of the school.

Josh Darwood, the Facilities Director for the Sweet Home School District, has noted that during the construction/remodel of the Sweet Home Junior High School, a design change separated buses and vehicles at that school and it has been a huge success. Mr. Darwood indicated that the change has made that drop off process 100% safer and he believes that a similar change at Oak Heights can have similar effects.

The Sweet Home School District has requested that parking restrictions be put into effect on the south side of the 600 block of Elm Street, directly in front of, and the length of the Oak Heights Elementary School, between the hours of 7:00am to 7:40am and 1:00pm to 2:20pm,

Monday through Friday. An adopted resolution changing the parking status in front of the Oak Heights Elementary School would allow the Sweet Home Police Department to enforce the no parking/bus drop off zone.

Sweet Home Municipal Code 10.04.030 Powers of the City Council establishes that the Council by resolution can alter parking controls which would become effective upon the installation of appropriate signs or other markings.

The Challenge/Problem:

Should the City restrict parking in front of the Oak Heights Elementary School on school days in an attempt to improve the efficient flow of pedestrian and vehicular flow of traffic.

Stakeholders:

- Students and Staff – A resolution associated with the change of parking status in front of the Oak Heights Elementary School could promote traffic and pedestrian safety.
- Oak Heights School Neighbors – A resolution associated with the change in parking status on the 600 block of Elm Street could affect the parking of neighborhood visitors in the area.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The expenses of signs, poles and installation is minimal and can be absorbed in the current budget. There will be a transition phase while parents are educated regarding the new drop off/pick up routine.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

The Sweet Home City Council should work with community partners and citizens to promote efficient and safe traffic patterns. The safety of students, staff and community have to be considered.

Options:

1. Do Nothing. Take no action.
2. Adopt the proposed Resolution on parking restrictions. – This would create a no parking zone on the south side of the 600 block of Elm Street during school days between the hours of 7:00am to 7:40am and 1:00pm to 2:20pm.
3. Revise the proposed Resolution. – Make additional changes or additions to the proposed resolution. Then motion to adopt Resolution No. 28 for 2021 - Oak Heights Elementary School Street Parking Change as amended.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend option #2, Make a motion to adopt Resolution No. 28 for 2021 - Oak Heights Elementary School Street Parking Change as presented. The resolution would allow for the enforcement of a no parking zone in front of the Oak Heights Elementary School.