

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairperson Davis and Committee Members

From: Andrew Beyer P.E., Public Works Director

Date: April 30, 2026

Subject: Public Safety & Welfare Committee Meeting of May 6, 2026

[Review and take possible action: Bus Parking near Richards Avenue and Thomas Avenue \(Washington Park\)](#)

Background

Concerns have been raised by a nearby resident regarding buses parking along Richards Avenue near Washington Park, particularly in the vicinity of the Thomas Avenue intersection. The concerns include limited sight distance for pedestrians crossing Richards Avenue, buses parking near or within restricted distances of the crosswalk, prolonged idling resulting in noise and diesel exhaust, and driver behavior.

Staff reviewed the concern in coordination with the Police Department and evaluated several potential approaches:

1. Amend Chapter 500 – High Profile Vehicle Parking Restrictions

This option would add this segment of Richards Avenue to the list of locations where parking of high-profile vehicles (vehicles over 6' in height, including buses) is prohibited.

- *Pros:* Creates a clear, enforceable restriction; consistent with existing ordinance structure; provides Police Department with a defined enforcement tool.
- *Cons:* The intent of the ordinance is to address sightline and safety issues tied to specific geometric constraints; application here may be less clearly justified; could lead to requests for similar restrictions in other locations where large vehicles are present.

2. Install “Drop-Off / Pick-Up Only” Signage

This option would designate the area for short-term bus activity while discouraging longer-term parking.

- *Pros:* Low cost; maintains operational flexibility for buses serving the park; may address concerns through voluntary compliance.

- *Cons:* Unless supported by ordinance, signage would be advisory and not enforceable; effectiveness would depend on driver compliance; could create expectation for similar signage in other park or school-adjacent locations, establishing a precedent that is difficult to uniformly apply & enforce.

3. Take No Action / Continue with Existing Regulations

Under current code, buses may legally park in this location provided they are not in violation of general parking restrictions (e.g., distance from crosswalks).

- *Pros:* No additional cost; avoids expanding ordinance or signage beyond current standards; consistent with how similar situations are handled citywide.
- *Cons:* Does not directly address resident concerns; limited enforcement options unless a clear violation occurs; ongoing potential for conflict between residents and bus operators.

Each option carries trade-offs between enforceability, consistency with existing policy, and the potential to set precedent for similar requests elsewhere in the City.

Budget Goal

Involve those who are impacted before making decisions.

Financial Impact

Costs would vary depending on the option selected. Installation of signage would have a minimal impact and could be accommodated within existing sign budgets. If an ordinance change is pursued, there would be no direct financial impact beyond staff time for drafting and implementation.

Recommendation

Staff is seeking direction from the Public Safety & Welfare Committee on how to proceed.

Enclosed: Correspondence received
 Site map