



**CITY OF COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

AGENDA ITEM 21-O-08

Prepared By: R.W. Ryan,
Public Services Director

Meeting Date: 05/25/2021

Presented By: R.W. Ryan,
Public Services Director
Jim Miller, Parking Manager

Proposed Consent: No

Originating Department: Public Services

Issue Before Council: Public hearing and possible adoption of an amended Ordinance to establish a process to notify and receive comment from neighbors of applicants for permits to park prohibited vehicles on public streets in residential zones.

Strategic Plan Objective: #6: Inspire and nurture a welcoming an inclusive community that encourages and embodies engagement, collaboration, and equity throughout our City.

Background/Justification:

The City Code, Chapter 184, §184-8, prohibits certain types of vehicles from parking on residential streets between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. These include recreational vehicles, boats, boat trailers, any type of trailer, and any special mobile equipment as defined in the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Special City permits are required to allow such parking. The City Manager may approve a 24-hour permit based on good cause provided by an applicant. The Mayor and Council must approve any period longer than 24 hours, upon good cause provided by the applicant. The Code does not define or otherwise give examples of "good cause", but such guidance is usually better for Council and staff to develop administratively.

Currently, the process to bring a special permit application to the Mayor and Council includes a written request by a resident to park a prohibited vehicle on the street where they reside (within the same block). A Worksession discussion with the applicant is scheduled. During the time from application request to Council decision, Parking Enforcement suspends citing the vehicle for violations. Mayor and Council may approve a limited time permit or an unlimited-time permit, although the Code does not specify the duration for any approved permit. In the past, most Council approved permits have been unlimited and Council action would be required to terminate the permit. Parking Enforcement issues a special permit sticker at no cost for such vehicles. This process has not included any formal notification of neighbors or public hearing when approval is considered.

Councilmembers have discussed a process to notify and receive comment from neighbors when applications to park prohibited vehicles have been received. Staff proposes a notice process similar to that used to consider the establishment of a new residential permit parking zone. The City Attorney prepared a draft Ordinance (21-O-08) that was introduced on May 11, 2021, with a Public Hearing scheduled for May 25, 2021.

After the Introduction of this Ordinance, staff discussed adding some flexibility to the language defining when notice would be given because the Council may consider the request at a Worksession or a Regular Meeting prior to adoption. As a result, an amended Ordinance is attached.

The amended Ordinance adds the highlighted language "PRIOR NOTICE OF THE MEETING AT WHICH THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL INTEND TO **CONSIDER OR TAKE ACTION** ON AN APPLICATION FOR SUCH A PERMIT WILL BE SENT TO THE OWNER OF EACH RESIDENCE ON THE BLOCK WHERE THE VEHICLE COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PARK."

Fiscal Impact:

Cost and staff time to prepare and mail notices to neighbors.

Council Options:

#1: Hold the Public Hearing, and then Adopt Amended Ordinance 21-O-08.

#2 Hold the Public Hearing but do not adopt the Amended Ordinance.

#3: Provide different direction to staff.

Staff Recommendation:

#1

Recommended Motion:

I move to adopt Amended Ordinance 21-O-08, an Amended Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park Amending Chapter 184 "Vehicles And Traffic", §184-8, "Prohibited Vehicles; Permits Required For Certain Vehicles", By Repealing And Reenacting §184-8, "Parking Restrictions For Certain Vehicles", To Require Prior Notice Of The Meeting At Which The Mayor And Council Intend To Consider Or Take Action On An Application For Prohibited Vehicle Parking.

Attachment(s):

1. Amended Ordinance 21-O-08