



**City of Parma Heights
Police, Fire and Safety Committee Minutes
May 23, 2022**

PRESENT: Committee Chair Rick Haase, Committee Vice-Chair Lesley DeSouza and Committee member Sue Durichko; Clerk of Council Allen and in the audience Council President Rounds, Councilwomen Maruschak, Walsh and Councilman Stavole.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Mayor Gallo, Captain Czack and Director of Safety Heffernan

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Haase at 5:30 p.m.

Captain Czack began the discussion by presenting examples of what a hardship would be from residents that might want to apply for a permit for street parking. The captain then read several e-mails from residents asking for permit approval. Officers would go and take pictures of the residence as well as talk with the resident as to how many drivers in the household, who parks where, are they using their garage appropriately, all as part of the investigation prior to authorizing the permit. There are 11,760 outstanding parking tickets for the City of Parma Heights.

People refuse to pay them. There was no recourse for the city. If this plan is accepted, we will be able to deny registration renewals and we can do that from City Hall. The registration block is part of the State of Ohio's new legislation that will be set in place this summer, and has nothing to do with the permits for street parking that we are proposing.

Councilwoman DeSouza mentioned that she's gotten calls from residents that there have been cars parked on streets for 3/4 days in a row, never moved, never ticketed. Captain Czack asked if any calls were placed to the police station? If somebody makes a call, police will investigate. Councilwoman DeSouza asked can't someone get the exception without changing the ordinance? Mayor Gallo answered that what this ordinance does, is streamlines why the exceptions are given, rather than just handing them out.

Councilwoman Durichko asked who determines what a hardship is? She said: "With the examples you provided what you feel is a hardship doesn't hold true for me and if we give permission to someone who has a space hardship from the next persons' space not being a hardship? Captain Czack answered that someone puts in the application, I drive over and discuss the matter in full detail. This is a quite involved process, she said. We do investigate the location thoroughly. Councilwoman Durichko also asked what happens when it snows? Does the hardship go away and then when the snow is gone the hardship returns? Captain Czack said that is a very good question but that it is the homeowner's responsibility knowing that they have to move vehicles if there is a snow ban. They must follow all the rules of parking then they have to move their vehicles. Councilman Haase added that that is part of being a responsible homeowner.

Councilwoman Durichko stated that this really a safety issue in her opinion. Further, in Parma Heights we don't have streetlighting, we don't have speed bumps. The Councilwoman gave some recent examples: If we go back to April 25th of this year, Jamir Grady, age 9 in Cleveland, ran between two parked cars and got hit and was killed, April 23rd of this year Apolina Asumani, age 5, same situation, she wasn't just hit, she was hit and dragged. If we have the ban from 3-6 A.M., it sets a habit so people aren't going out at 2:59 A.M. to move their car, it's normally at the end of their day when they are retiring for the night, whatever time that happens to be.

The Councilwoman continued: "So those people are in my opinion, are less inclined to park in the street during the daytime hours as well. With the safety concerns and these two examples from just last month, I can't get past that without a lot of convincing. How do we ensure safety? I'm not saying that 84 parking permits would cause someone to lose their life, but it might be contagious, it might create much more than what you anticipate in terms of parking passes, everyone could pull a medical condition or space issue, and even if they are inclined to move their cars they may not because they have the extra space and carry over to the daytime which gives us the safety concern."

"In addition, the esthetics of the city, I think the engineers of the city once upon a time when Parma Heights became a city had a neighborhood idea in place, a family community if you will and if we turn it into a parking lot it changes the esthetics. I'm not saying your plan is to do that, but it has the potential to do that."

Captain Czack responded that people park on the streets constantly, this is for **3-6 A.M.** only. The officers would find this helpful because they would know that this vehicle has permission to be on the street instead of having to call in each vehicle checked each night. Councilwoman DeSouza asked what would stop someone from switching the parking pass from car to car? Captain Czack stated that they would spot check from time to time, it would be in the database in the car to make sure it belongs to the vehicle and that street and that they are within compliance.

Councilman Haase commented that this was a great dialog, very important and feels we've made some headway, certainly just in terms of some much-needed explanation. But, he said, the conversation isn't over. We have other scheduled meetings and have to move on. We appreciate your time. I thank everybody for their thoughtful questions and their time this evening."

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



Barbara Allen
Clerk of Council



Rick Haase
Chairman
Police, Fire and Safety Committee