



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – June 20, 2018 Agenda Item 6

### **Work Session**

Recommendation for an Alternative to Curb Painting to Denote No Parking Areas

### **Recommended Council Action**

Discuss recommendation and, if in agreement, authorize staff to make program available upon request.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Several years ago the Council placed a moratorium on the City's practice of painting curbs yellow to designate no parking areas. This was typically done at intersections to mark areas as no parking 25 feet back from a stop sign or corner, and also on either side of driveway aprons. The Council allowed for curb painting to continue in areas where there was a public safety concern. Since the moratorium was enacted, the Public Works Department has marked no parking areas with signage, when possible, and has defined safety issues to be those associated with fire hydrants and directly adjacent to school zones.

In May 2017, the Department proposed an alternative for marking no parking areas beside driveway aprons: a white thermoplastic tape that is installed (heat applied) directly onto the street surface to mark the 5 foot no parking space on either side of the driveway. These were installed in several locations as a pilot.

Based on site visits to the pilot areas, staff believes that, after more than a year, the markings are holding up well, still look quite visible and accomplish the desired goal. The installation using thermoplastic is slightly more expensive than curb painting, but requires similar staff time and lasts much longer, making it more cost effective.

Staff recommends that this alternative be made available to residents who have problems with cars parking too close or in front of their driveway. As in the past, the assumption is that the installation of the thermoplastic markings would be done upon a resident's request. The practice of installing no parking signs to designate the no parking area on a street or near an intersection would continue.

### **Council Priority**

Engaged, Responsive and Service-Oriented Government

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

Both thermoplastic and paint contain potentially harmful chemicals. Thermoplastic tape is a petroleum based product; however its longevity is superior to paint.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

The cost of making this available to residents is fairly minimal and would be covered within the operating budget of the Right of Way Division of the Public Works Department. The annual expenditure in materials and staff time is expected to be less than \$5,000.

**Racial Equity Impact Statement**

The installation of the driveway apron no parking markings are proposed to be done on resident's request. There is evidence that programs that rely on a complaint based system are less used by those with lower incomes, recent immigrants and people of color. As a result, the City may receive requests for these installations from higher income and white residents. The need for designating a driveway area for no parking is likely to be most needed in neighborhoods where parking is an issue due to Metro use, nearby commercial amenities with insufficient off street parking, and near multi-family apartment buildings with insufficient or no off street parking. These neighborhoods can be found throughout the City in every ward, but probably more significantly in Ward 1 (Old Town and metro), Ward 2 (near New Hampshire Avenue), Ward 3 (Old Town) and Ward 6 (near New Hampshire Avenue and northern portion of New Hampshire Gardens neighborhood).

**Attachments and Links**

N/A