

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 18, 2024

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Ben Yeung at byeung@norwalkct.gov to provide written comments prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Nate Sumpter

STAFF: Benjamin Yeung, Senior Traffic Engineer, TMP; Chief James Walsh, Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Daniel Stanton, Senior Engineer, DPW; Mario Pizighelli, Stormwater Systems Manager, DPW; Nathan Fankhanel, Junior Engineer, TMP; Rebecca Kovacs, Events Coordinator, Recreation and Parks

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2024

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE SIDEWALK/BIKE LANE CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL NORWALK RIVER FUN RUN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Ms. Kovacs provided an overview of the event and said the Norwalk Public Schools Department of Education along with Recreation and Parks has done the Norwalk River Fun Run for several years and it is a 1.2-mile walk and run for kids in grades K through 12. She said the event begins at Veteran's Park and crosses the road while escorted by Norwalk Police and ends at the Maritime Aquarium and no roads will be closed.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE SIDEWALK/BIKE LANE CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL NORWALK RIVER FUN RUN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL JINGLE BELL 5K RUN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM TO 10:45 AM

Ms. Kovacs provided an overview of the event and said the Jingle Bell Run is something that Recreation and Parks has put on for the last several years and is a 5K race that is held at Calf Pasture Beach and goes to Gregory Boulevard and ends back at Calf Pasture Beach, and there is a partial road closure on Calf Pasture Beach Road.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL JINGLE BELL 5K RUN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024, FROM 9:00 AM TO 10:45 AM**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES & INTERMITTENT FULL CLOSURES FOR THE DPW GRUMMAN AVENUE DRAINAGE PROJECT FROM NOVEMBER 2024 TO MARCH 2025

Mr. Pizighelli said the project on Grumman Avenue is ongoing and is for the installation of a new water main and new storm drainage infrastructure within the area. He said they had attempted to do two-way alternating traffic for the installation of the water main but, due to the size of the excavator and the proximity of the water main, it was decided to have a temporary shut-down in the work areas for the construction. He said it is currently set up in three corridors and the traffic detour will shift as they complete the installation. He said where it is possible to have an 11' lane the detour will be removed and there will be two-way alternating traffic and they should be completed with the water main and services by the end of next week, and after the water main is completed the new storm drain infrastructure will be

installed and he does not believe a traffic detour will be necessary for that however, there will be instances where they will be installing a crossing which will take up both lanes of traffic and in those instances may revert to the detour that was presented. He said that flaggers and police would be placed at each end of the construction zone and there would be detour signs posted. Mayor Rilling asked if there were any residences in the area. Mr. Pizighelli said “yes” but residential traffic will always be let through. Mayor Rilling asked if the residents had been notified. Mr. Pizighelli said “yes” and that the notices went out on November 5th to the residents of Grumman Avenue, so they are aware of the detours. Commissioner Lopez asked if plates would be installed at the end of each day. Mr. Pizighelli said “no” and they will be backfilling and paving as they go. Commissioner Paladino said that Scott Street is a narrow street with parking on both sides and asked if Shepherd Street is the same. Mr. Pizighelli said “yes” but he does not recall seeing a lot of parking on Shepherd Street and are still able to get two-way traffic on Shepherd Street.

****COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURES & INTERMITTENT FULL CLOSURES FOR THE DPW GRUMMAN AVENUE DRAINAGE PROJECT FROM NOVEMBER 2024 TO MARCH 2025.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE ON GEORGE AVENUE FOR THE DPW LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM JANUARY 6 TO JANUARY 31, 2025.

Mr. Stanton said this item was discussed at the last Traffic Authority meeting and he presented a plan based on the feedback that was received. He said that certified letters were sent to the residents on George Avenue and have not received any comments. He provided an overview of the project and said because of the depth of the drainage and the number of utilities in the area the contractor has requested to close the road during construction to allow them to complete construction faster. Commissioner Lopez asked if there would be any other construction projects going on in the same area. Mr. Stanton said “no” and the work on East Avenue will be substantially complete by the time this project begins, and the permit department is aware of this project and no other work will be allowed in the area.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE ON GEORGE AVENUE FOR THE DPW LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM JANUARY 6 TO JANUARY 31, 2025**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE & TEMPORARY ONE-WAY ON HEATHER LANE FOR DPW LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JULY 2025

Mr. Stanton said this is the next phase of the project that is being done in the Lockwood Lane/Heather Lane neighborhood which is a narrow residential street and to perform the work it has been determined that a one-way orientation of traffic would be the safest and will require communication in the area that gets people to understand the direction of the detour. Mayor Rilling asked if there had been any feedback

received by the residents. Mr. Stanton said the letters were hand-delivered last week and he has not received any comments from the residents.

****COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE & TEMPORARY ONE-WAY ON HEATHER LANE FOR DPW LOCKWOOD LANE AND HEATHER LANE STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JULY 2025.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. APPROVE THE “NO STANDING ANYTIME” REGULATION ON WILLARD ROAD

Commissioner Sumpter moved the item for discussion.

Mr. Fankhanel said that a business owner pointed out that at the swim school/recreation center on Willard Road during pick-up and drop-off times parents are parking along the curb line in front of their property blocking traffic and creating a dangerous situation for people who are walking across the street and requested that “no standing” be implemented along the curb line. He said that TMP has verified that this is a valid concern as the area is too narrow to allow for parked cars and still allow traffic to move in two directions and is close to a crosswalk, and there is a large parking lot across the street that parents are supposed to be using.

Mayor Rilling asked how that will be enforced. Chief Walsh said enforcement would require someone to keep their eyes on the vehicles to see that it hasn’t moved to satisfy the requirement for enforcement so it could be problematic based on caseload. Mr. Fankhanel asked if “no parking” rather than “no standing” in the area would be better. Chief Walsh said there needs to be education of the customers to use the parking lot that is designed for their use. Commissioner Lopez asked if the business could take a more proactive role to let their customers know that the area will be a “no-standing” area soon and take the necessary measures to ensure that they use the parking lot and not use the street to park their cars for safety reasons. Mr. Yeung said he completed this investigation with Mr. Fankhanel and believes the owner of the swim school has made some efforts to communicate this to the parents, but will follow up with them to make sure he continues to notify new parents/guardians and that they had requested this proposal for a potential “no parking/no standing anytime” regulation to help reinforce what he was already communicating to the parents. Commissioner Paladino suggested that there be “no parking” rather than “no standing” as it would be easier to enforce and easier for the parents to understand that there is adequate parking across the street. Mr. Yeung said the business owner's concern is that the problems only occur at pick-up and drop-off times and are not parking in the designated parking area. Mayor Rilling suggested signing the area as “no parking” or “standing”. Commissioner Sumpter asked the opinion of the police department. Chief Walsh said if the area is designated as a parking area and would need to be enforced but as Commissioner Sumpter pointed out there is not a lot of traffic on this street so the officers will have to divert to that road because there is not a lot on call volume there, but a no parking zone is a much more objective standard.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO AMEND THE AGENDA.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE “NO PARKING/NO STANDING ANYTIME” REGULATION ON WILLARD ROAD.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd