

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 27, 2025

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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; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Nathan Fankhanel, Junior Engineer, TMP

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00PM

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Rilling called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. December 16, 2024

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION-COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS.**

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tierney Street Parking Regulation Change

Mr. Fankhanel said approximately one month ago TMP was approached by the residents of 11 Tierney Street complaining about parked cars along the wall at 13 Tierney Street, but as it exists today cars are allowed to park in front of the wall and are primarily used by people going to the JB's Deli. After speaking with both the property owners and the owner of the deli, TMP is recommending changing the restrictions along the wall to two 30-minute parking spaces and there is no parking against the driveway.

Mayor Rilling said when people park in the area of where the two 30 minute parking spaces are being recommended it is narrow and the cars going around it do have difficulty and suggested that be looked into at some point, but he certainly does not want to take parking away from a business that relies heavily on that because they only have two parking spaces on their lot.

Commissioner Lopez said the speeding issue will also need to be addressed.

Mr. Fankhanel said in addition to this recommendation they have also looked at the stop signs at the intersection and plan to install a reflective strip, so the stop signs are more obvious.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE TIERNEY STREET PARKING REGULATION CHANGE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Timed Parking Restrictions on Union Park, Bedford Avenue, & Byington Place

Mr. Fankhanel said parking spaces were installed on Union Place and Byington Place in 2022, and have recently observed that some people are leaving their cars long term for days and weeks at a time, so TMP is proposing to install four-hour parking limits during the day so there is turn over, and the parking spaces would not be metered and will only be timed parking spaces

Monday through Saturday from 8:00AM to 6:00PM so overnight parking would be allowed. He said they have reached out to the Mosque that is on Union Place to be sure their services would be accommodated but have not received a response but believe the four-hour time limit would accommodate them.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said there is already a two-hour limit and there is an issue with cars parking there for weeks at a time and car dealerships using it as long-term parking and asked who is monitoring that now, and if a situation` will be created where there would be more long-term parking because they realize it is not monitored.

Chief Walsh said it was discovered that a gentleman in the area was buying cars and storing and selling them and had contacted the owner and he had moved all the cars. He said the area underneath the highway was not signed so that would be adding enforcement and TMP is proposing to make it universal from two-hour to four-hour parking all the way down the street.

Commissioner Paladino said he does not see how this will resolve anything with no enforcement. Mr. Fankhanel said it will be enforced the same way as any other timed area in the city where when a resident sees a car parked for an extended period, they would contact the police, and they would investigate the situation.

Commissioner Lopez asked if the residents in the area would be adversely affected. Mr. Fankhanel said the four-hour restriction would only be in place from 8:00AM to 6:00PM so residents would be allowed to park overnight. Commissioner Lopez asked if the residents had been notified. Mr. Fankhanel said “no”.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the two-hour parking limits have adversely affected the Mosque that is in the area. Mr. Fankhanel said he does not think the five spaces would as they have sufficient amount of parking in their lot.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said she does not understand why an additional two hours are being requested for these parking spaces. Mr. Fankhanel said to make sure the parking spaces along Union Place accommodate the Mosque in case of an overflow, but have not received a response from them yet, so he is not sure if it is necessarily even needed but TMP is doing their best to be sure they are accommodated. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there have been any complaints regarding the two-hour time limit up until now. Mr. Fankhanel said “no”.

Mayor Rilling said the parking lot for the Mosque holds approximately 30 cars at the most and when they have their services and other events there is a big overflow and have a need for parking, so he was glad to see the parking underneath Route 7 and on the other side of Union Park Avenue. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how added enforcement for this parking revision affects the police department. Chief Walsh said there would not be a negative effect, and the day shift patrol units would just need to check the area when complaints are received.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TIMED PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON UNION PARK, BEDFORD AVENUE, & BYINGTON PLACE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd