

**Danielle Delaney**

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**From:** Cassidy Flynn  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 3:20 PM  
**To:** Danielle Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Please send the latest language for #326-22

Do you have any updated language from the Law Department?

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**From:** Jeremy Freudberg <[jeremyfreudberg@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyfreudberg@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 2:40 PM  
**To:** City Council <[citycouncil@newtonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@newtonma.gov)>; Law <[law@newtonma.gov](mailto:law@newtonma.gov)>; Alissa O. Giuliani <[agiuliani@newtonma.gov](mailto:agiuliani@newtonma.gov)>; David Koses <[dkoses@newtonma.gov](mailto:dkoses@newtonma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please send the latest language for #326-22

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Please send the latest language for #326-22. My understanding is that the Law Department was working on some tweaks, by direction of the PS&T committee. I would like to be able to review the latest language and offer my final recommendation, prior to the City Council taking up the item on second call tonight. If, alternatively, there are no tweaks, let me know that too.

Thanks.

Best,  
Jeremy Freudberg  
Alternate Resident Member, Traffic Council

On Fri, Jul 1, 2022 at 1:08 PM Jeremy Freudberg <[jeremyfreudberg@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyfreudberg@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear all,

Please send me the updated version of the ordinance as prepared by the Law Department, whenever it is ready (hopefully well before July 11).

I will also give one more example that may be useful to councilors as they consider the proposed ordinance:

Back in 2020, no-turn-on-red restrictions at the intersection of Parker Street and Wheeler Road were listed in the TPR but not posted in the field. Traffic Council took up an item which proposed to remove these restrictions from the TPR in order to match the field. The resulting action, after discussion, was a vote for no action on the item, to let the signs be posted and serve their important purpose. Going forward, I think it would be a mistake, as the ordinance reads, to silently remove language from the TPR in such cases. Given that 'forgotten' regulations usually come from somewhere and may have some amount of merit to them, such matters should always make their way to Traffic Council for further analysis and a vote. This could be through the frequent review of recent administrative changes by interested parties who then take it upon themselves to docket an item with Traffic Council, but ideally by direct referral to Traffic Council at the time that the discrepancy is discovered.

To say more about frequency, method, and recipients of notification of administrative changes, I still have strong feelings that the ordinance should specify these, but I am okay leaving them out, having understood that there will be some experimentation to figure out what works best.

I am happy to discuss further by email or by phone 8576368420 about this or other ideas for any section of Chapter 19.

Best,  
Jeremy Freudberg

On Mon, Jun 20, 2022 at 10:36 AM Jeremy Freudberg <[jeremyfreudberg@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyfreudberg@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Councilors,

I hope that my thoughts below will be useful to you as you consider item #362-22 *Requesting language modification to the Traffic and Parking Regulations*, which is before the Public Safety & Transportation Committee this week and for which a draft ordinance has been circulated.

Sec. 19-30(c) of the City Ordinances binds the Traffic Council to “make every effort to complete its review of each item within three (3) months” and this effort is indeed made. Unfortunately, it is the case that many items, particularly those initiated by citizen petition, linger for far more than 3 months before being heard by the Traffic Council. I am therefore supportive of the proposed ordinance, to the extent that it will reduce the number of items to be taken up by the Traffic Council and allow the remaining items to be heard more swiftly. I would, however, remind the City Council that volume of items is just one reason why an item may not be taken up for several months, and encourage the City Council to look more closely at the other key reason for delay as set forth in Traffic Council Policy 4, namely that the necessary data collection for more substantial items is one among many responsibilities of the dedicated staff who support the Traffic Council’s work.

One phrase in the draft ordinance is very concerning: “to correct inconsistencies between traffic regulations and signage in the field”. It must be made absolutely clear that administrative authority is only granted to allow changes to the regulations that reflect longstanding field conditions and never changes to field conditions that reflect forgotten regulations. We must recall the significant strife in our community caused by the sudden posting of parking prohibitions on Ward Street near Temple Emanuel, parking prohibitions on Oak Street near All Star Liquors, and stop signs at the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Theodore Road. I recommend that when the review process reveals that a regulation is not properly reflected in the field (either with no signage at all or incomplete signage), the Traffic Council member and DPW staff member undertaking the review shall be obligated by ordinance to refer the matter to the Traffic Council.

I further recommend that the ordinance provide for notification of all administrative changes to the remaining Traffic Council members, who all have great interest in and concern for the traffic and parking regulations.

Finally, as a technical matter, I believe that the reference to “city clerk” in Sec. 19-28(b) as currently drafted should instead be “clerk of the city council”, to be consistent with Sec. 19-27(a).

Respectfully,  
Jeremy Freudberg  
Alternate Resident Member, Traffic Council