

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

7:45 pm
Room 205

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

- #302-13(2) PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, requesting the Chief of Police provide periodic updates to the Committee on the departmental review, completed in July 2013. [04/16/14 @ 1:10 PM]
HELD 7-0 on 05/07/14, Ald. Harney not voting
- #81-15 POLICE DEPARTMENT submitting reports of semi-annual taxi license/public auto inspections for review. [03/23/15 @ 3:54 PM]
- #115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]
HELD on 06/18/14, 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstaining, Ald. Schwartz not voting on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.
HELD on 09/17/14, 5-0-1, Ald. Harney abstaining, Ald. Cote not voting to continue the trial for an additional 180-days to remove the no parking, anytime, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PS&T, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #85-15 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting discussion with the Director of Transportation and the Transportation Coordinator to determine whether a fee could be imposed on all residents who own automobiles in the City. Such fee to be placed into a transportation fund to pay for roadway and sidewalk improvements. Residents would get a parking sticker in return for each automobile they have registered with the City that would enable them to bypass parking restrictions in the City except for Tow Zones and Fire Hydrants and any other emergency zones determined by the Police and Fire Departments. [03/12/15 @ 10:38 AM]

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, please contact John Lojek, at least two days in advance of the meeting: jlojek@newtonma.gov, or 617-796-1064. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.

REFERRED TO PUB FACIL, PROG & SERV, AND PS&T COMMITTEES

- #46-15 ALD. JOHNSON & CICCONE, requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Department of Public Works and the School Department to determine and discuss parking options including use of school properties based on the current municipal parking lot programs including the issuance of permits. [02/11/15 @ 1:35 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #465-14 ALD. SANGIOLO, GENTILE AND HARNEY, requesting a discussion regarding reducing the fee charged to residents for permit parking programs. [11/17/14 @ 12:40 PM]
HELD 6-0 on 01/07/15

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #375-14 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY16-FY20 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/15/14 @ 3:01 PM]
- #326-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT, requesting a discussion and a plan to replace all Newton parking meters within two years. [08/19/14 @ 9:16 AM]
HELD 5-0 on 09/17/14, Ald. Harney and Lipof not voting
HELD 6-0 on 02/04/15, Ald. Fuller and Johnson not voting
HELD 7-0 on 03/04/15
- #310-14 ALD. YATES requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor asking that the Director of Public Engagement develop a public outreach program in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation re the Add-a Lane Project on Route 128, including but not limited to emails to aldermen and members of the Upper Falls, Waban, and Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Councils, and create a prominent link on the city's website to the new Department of Transportation website page on the project [07/31/14 @ 12:12 PM]
- #309-14(2) ALD. JOHNSON, requesting a discussion regarding changes that may need to be made to Traffic Council. This would include intent and purpose of the council, criteria and process to determine the referral of Traffic Council petitions to be discussed and acted upon Administratively, by Traffic Council or Public Safety & Transportation Committee. [03/05/15 @ 9:23 PM]
- #309-14 ALD. JOHNSON requesting a discussion re changes that may need to be made to the membership of the Traffic Council to make it more effective, efficient, and representative of the community. [07/28/14 @ 9:20 AM]
HELD 7-0 on 09/17/14
HELD 7-0 on 03/04/15
- #72-14 ALD. CICCONE & JOHNSON, requesting a discussion of the installation of a possible bike lane on Walnut Street between Otis Street and Commonwealth Avenue. [03/03/14 @ 8:17 AM]
HELD 7-0 on 03/19/14

#28-14 ALD. CICCONE AND FULLER on behalf of the Health Department and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) requesting a discussion on duplicate street names. [01/09/14 @ 10:57 AM]

HELD 8-0 on 01/22/14

HELD 8-0 on 05/07/14

#150-13 ALD. JOHNSON, ALBRIGHT & LINSKY, requesting the Planning Department create a traffic and parking management plan for the Education Center, Day Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary School and Carr School neighborhood area by December 2013. (Wards 1 & 2) [03/29/13 @ 9:11 AM]

HELD 7-0 on 02/04/15, Ald. Fuller not voting

HELD 7-0 on 03/04/15

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#257-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending (1) review of the Fees, Civil Fines/Non-Criminal Disposition contained in Chapter 17 LICENSING AND PERMITS GENERALLY and Chapter 20 CIVIL FINES/NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION CIVIL FINES to ensure they are in accordance with what is being charged and (2) review of the acceptance of G.L. c. 40 §22F, accepted on July 9, 2001, which allows certain municipal boards and officers to fix reasonable fees for the issuance of certain licenses, permits, or certificates.

#240-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE requesting that **Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended to determine who has jurisdiction for parking on municipal land, the owning department as described in **Sec. 19-224. Parking prohibited on city grounds.** or the Traffic Council as described in **Sec. 19-26. Authority and role of Traffic Council.**

HELD 7-0 on 03/18/15

#234-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending that the definition of *Speed humps* in **Sec. 19-1. of Chapter 19 MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC** be amended to make it consistent with current design/practice standards.

HELD 6-0-1 on 03/18/15, Ald. Yates abstaining

REFERRED TO PS&T AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

#413-11 ALD. CICCONE, SALVUCCI, GENTILE & LENNON updating the Public Facilities and Public Safety & Transportation Committees on the progress of renovations to the city's fire stations. [11/17/11 @ 11:07 AM]

HELD 6-0 on 01/07/15

PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 8-0 on 01/07/15

#137-11 ALD. DANBERG AND FULLER requesting possible changes to City Ordinance 19-191, Parking Meter Fees, to require a minimum purchase at long-term parking meters in order to discourage short-term use. [04/26/11 @ 9:52 AM]

HELD 6-0 on 05/18/11, Ald. Freedman not voting

HELD 8-0 on 01/18/12

HELD 5-0 on 01/23/13, Ald. Fuller not voting

REFERRED TO PS&T, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#310-10(2) ALD. DANBERG, BLAZAR, KALIS, SCHWARTZ, ALBRIGHT, HESS-
(#409-12) MAHAN, RICE, COTE, LEARY, AND NORTON, requesting amendments to
Sec. 26-8D of the City of Newton Ordinances to modify and make permanent the
trial program for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks and to provide for
enforcements and fines for violations. [09/10/14 @ 2:12 PM]

HELD 7-0 on 10/08/14, Ald. Schwartz not voting

PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 6-0 on 10/08/14

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Yates, Cote, Fuller, Schwartz, Lipof, Harney and Johnson

Also Present: Ald. Albright

City Staff: Chief Howard Mintz, Lt. Kenneth D'Angelo and Captain Dennis Dowling, Newton Police Department; Dr. Dori Zaleznik, Chief Administrative Officer; Laura McGerigle, Senior Dispatch Supervisor; Donnalyn Khan, City Solicitor; Marie Lawlor, Assistant City Solicitor; Linda Walsh, Interim Commissioner Health and Human Services and Wesley Layne, Director Human Resources

#302-13 ALD. FULLER, CICCONE & ALBRIGHT, requesting a presentation and discussion by the Executive Office and Chief of Police on the findings of the recently completed Newton Police Department departmental review. [08/12/13 @ 8:32 PM]

HELD 6-0 on 04/09/14

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0, Ald. Harney not voting

NOTE: Docket items #302-13 and #302-13(2) were discussed together. Refer to #302-13(2) below.

Chair Ciccone said that he is hopeful that this item can be voted no action necessary since an item has been docketed allowing Chief Mintz the opportunity to attend future Public Safety & Transportation meetings to provide period updates several times per year.

Without further discussion, Ald. Yates made the motion for no action necessary on this item. Committee members agreed 7-0, Ald. Harney not voting.

#302-13(2) PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, requesting the Chief of Police provide periodic updates to the Committee on the departmental review, completed in July 2013. [04/16/14 @ 1:10 PM]

ACTION: HELD 7-0, Ald. Harney not voting

NOTE: Docket items #302-13 and #302-13(2) were discussed together.

Chief Mintz joined the Committee for discussion on these items.

Committee members were provided with a detailed 45-day departmental review report, completed in July 2013. Chief Mintz's report includes culture/gender, discipline, training and the departmental bureau structure. The report includes observations/factual background, conclusions and action items to ensure that the department is being the most efficient.

The Subcommittee met over the past few months with Bob Rooney and Maureen Lemieux to review the Police Department needs to fully understand and analyze all facets and functions of the Police Department. Ald. Albright, Fuller, Ciccone, Lipof and Johnson have met with Chief Mintz to discuss his report and provide guidance. The intent of the Subcommittee was to bring to the Board of Aldermen recommendations as to the appropriate number of personnel necessary to staff the department while providing necessary services.

Committee members expressed their questions, requests and suggestions.

Questions

- Committee members asked how the City determines if the Police Department is succeeding?
- Committee members asked if Veterans apply to the department?

Requests

- Committee members requested that they be provided with a copy of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agency (CALEA) report.
- Committee members requested the amount of funding provided by the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) to the City for Police Department coverage during the Boston Marathon.
- Committee members requested out-of-pocket expenses the Newton Police Department incurred to cover the Boston Marathon.

Suggestions

- Committee members suggested that discussion continue on the selection process of candidates with the Executive Department.
- Committee members suggested continue working with the Human Resources Director on performance evaluations, selection of specialist positions, grievances, performance metrics and selection of promotional positions.

Chief Mintz clarified and elaborated for Committee members sections of his report including accomplishments. He then noted that there are 481 standards to the process of being accredited. He feels that it is obvious the Police Department is succeeding or the department would not have been re-accredited. He then answered that two women veterans work in the department; the department does not receive many female applicants.

Committee members commended Chief Mintz for his diligence, experience, leadership, analysis and effort on his very detailed report and look forward to discussing this item in the future. Chief Mintz stated that he is proud to be Chief of the Police Department. A goal is to make the Newton Police Department a welcoming workplace where all employees can succeed.

The Police Department Staffing Study, which was attached to the agenda, was not discussed.

Ald. Yates made the motion to hold this item as suggested by Chair Ciccone allowing Chief Mintz the opportunity to attend future Public Safety & Transportation meetings to provide period updates perhaps several times per year. Committee members agreed 7-0, Ald. Harney not voting.

Board of Aldermen

2014-2015

CITY OF NEWTON

**PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE**

Dear Resident:

The Public Safety & Transportation Committee of the Board of Aldermen will be discussing the following item, which may be of interest to you, at its next meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7:45 pm in Room 205, Second Floor, City Hall. The meeting is open to the public and if you would like further information on the item, you are encouraged to attend.

- #115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]
HELD on 06/18/14, 5-0-1, (Cicccone abstaining, Schwartz not voting) on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.
HELD on 09/17/14, 5-0-1, (Harney abstaining, Cote not voting) to continue the trial for an additional 180-days to remove the no parking, anytime, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.

If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to offer comments in writing for consideration, please forward your comments to the Office of the Clerk of the Board, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, 02459 or e-mail to Danielle Delaney at ddelaney@newtonma.gov by April 1, 2015 reflecting docket item number #115-14.

Sincerely,

Danielle Delaney
Committee Clerk
Public Safety & Transportation Committee

1000 Commonwealth Avenue ▪ Newton, MA 02459
617-796-1210 www.newtonma.gov

CITY OF NEWTONIN BOARD OF ALDERMENPUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Fuller, Lipof, Harney, Johnson, Yates and Cote

Absent: Ald. Schwartz

Also Present: Ald. Norton and Albright

City Staff: Sergeant Jay Babcock, Newton Police Department; William Paille, Director, Transportation Division; James Freas, Acting Director, Planning & Development and David Koses, Transportation Coordinator

Others Present: Jerome Grafe, Alternate Citizen Representative, Traffic Council

#115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]

HELD on 06/18/14, 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstaining, Ald. Schwartz not voting on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.

ACTION: HELD 5-0-1, Ald. Harney abstaining, Ald. Cote not voting to continue the trial for an additional 180-days to remove the no parking, anytime, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.

NOTE: Mr. Kuehn, Sgt. Babcock and Ald. Norton joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chair Ciccone stated that this Committee implemented a trial in June 2014 with the understanding that residents would self-regulate their parking situations. Fourteen letters were mailed on September 2, 2014, inviting residents to this meeting. Zero correspondence has been received.

Sgt. Babcock stated that there was one main issue and a few minor bumps during this trial with residents parking side by side. He spoke with Ald. Norton who addressed his concern with the residents and rectified this situation. Sgt. Babcock expressed his concern of parking during the winter months and requested this trial continue until April 2015 to determine that the neighbors can in fact self-regulate ('police') their own street. Residents must use common sense for emergency vehicle access and 'staggered' parking is necessary. Residents must abide and will not park side by side. Safety is the first priority and emergency vehicles must have easy access.

Mr. Kuehn thanked the Committee for implementing this trial. He provided photos and a letter addressed to Fairfield Street residents informing them of the trial. Photos and letter are on file.

Without further discussion, Ald. Lipof made the motion to hold this item as suggested by Sgt. Babcock to continue the trial for an additional 180-days to remove the no parking anytime, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction, approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14. Committee members agreed 5-0-1, Ald. Harney abstaining and Ald. Cote not voting. Ald. Harney abstained because he was not present for the discussion.

Chair Ciccone stated he intends to discuss this trial in April 2015.

CITY OF NEWTONIN BOARD OF ALDERMENPUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Fuller, Cote, Lipof, Yates, Schwartz and Harney

Absent: Ald. Johnson

Also Present: Ald. Norton

City Staff: David Koses, Transportation Planner; Sgt. Jay Babcock and Chief Howard Mintz, Newton Police Department

#115-14 FRAN KUEHN, 37 Fairfield Street, appealing the Approval of TC1-14 Traffic Council Decision on February 27, 2014: SGT. BABCOCK, requesting a parking restriction on Fairfield Street, to allow for emergency vehicle access. (Ward 2) [03/17/14 @ 4:10 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstaining, Ald. Schwartz not voting on a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street parking restriction approved by Traffic Council on 02/27/14.**

NOTE: Ald. Norton, Mr. Koses and Sgt. Babcock joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Koses provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation, attached to this report. Fairfield Street is 24 feet wide. Currently, there is a two-hour limit, 8am to 4pm school days except by a Newtonville Permit restriction along east side and a no parking anytime restriction along the west side – due to safety concerns. West side residents are allowed to park along the east side or on adjacent streets. Prior to the winter, the Police Department placed a temporary parking restriction on the east side of Fairfield Street due to emergency vehicle access difficulties. After thirteen days of observation, they noted that vehicles were not parking in a ‘staggered’ approach. As a result, the Police Department docketed an item for Traffic Council’s consideration requesting a permanent parking restriction be implemented. Traffic Council agreed with the Police Department that a permanent parking restriction was necessary for public safety reasons and agreed that residents can park on the east side of Fairfield Street or adjacent streets and approved a restriction of no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street.

Mr. Koses briefly described the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan. A goal in implementing and creating the comprehensive parking plan was to make parking restrictions more consistent by eliminating and regulating different parking restrictions.

Mr. Koses stated that Traffic Council usually limits parking to one side of streets with a width of less than 24 feet. The City is in the process of creating a citywide parking policy on streets that are 24 feet wide perhaps implementing a one-side parking restriction to provide consistency.

Sgt. Babcock said that after the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan was implemented, neighbors complained that vehicles were parked on both sides of Fairfield Street making it difficult for emergency vehicle access, especially fire trucks. The Police Department placed a temporary parking restriction on the east side of Fairfield Street after thirteen days of observation and noted that vehicles are not parking in a 'staggered' approach. He said that he docketed an item for Traffic Council's consideration because of safety concerns, challenges and complaints received due to the difficulties for emergency vehicle access. He then said that no complaints have been received since parking was removed on the west side of Fairfield Street.

Chair Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. Fran Kuehn, petitioner spoke in favor of removing the permanent parking restriction of no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street approved by Traffic Council. He said that since the Police Department removed parking, approximately ten months ago it has been difficult parking on the west side and crossing with children. It is unsafe and concerning. He then said the residents of the street signed the appeal petition supporting and requesting that Traffic Council's decision be overturned. There are fourteen single-family owner occupied homes. He then said that residents agree safety and emergency vehicle access are necessary. Mr. Kuehn stated that residents agree to 'stagger' parking, will use their driveways, and request that guests do the same. Residents would like to be able to park in front of their homes on weekends and at night. Mr. Kuehn then said that since the Newtonville Neighborhood Parking District Plan was implemented, there are fewer vehicles parking on Fairfield Street. One resident agreed with Mr. Kuehn and said that he has never observed emergency vehicles having access difficulties. He made a suggestion to restrict parking from the corners.

Chair Ciccone said that administratively the Department of Public Works could restrict parking up to 50 feet from the corners.

Committee members and Ald. Norton discussed this request and expressed their concerns, questions and comments.

Concerns:

- A citywide parking policy may not be appropriate, unless the demand for on-street parking is low and such a policy may negatively impact all.
- It is concerning, residents refused to move their vehicles when requested by the Police Department. How will residents be able to self-regulate ('police') their own street? Residents should use common sense for emergency vehicle access and 'staggered' parking are necessary.
- Committee members realize it is an inconvenience, but should not be difficult to cross the street with children because Fairfield Street is not a busy street with minimal traffic.

Questions:

- Committee members asked if each home had a driveway. Mr. Koses answered yes.
- Are Newton North students parking up the area. Mr. Koses briefly described the resident and student Tiger Permit programs. He said that 150 Tiger Permits are issued to students costing \$25.00 per year, allowing them to park on Hull Street, Lowell Avenue and the Austin Street parking lot.
- What is the width of a fire truck and how many times do they not have access to a street 24 feet wide due to parked vehicles parking on both sides? Sgt. Babcock answered that an

engine truck is 10 feet wide, including mirrors. A ladder truck is wider. He estimates that in the past three years, approximately fire trucks did not have access ten times.

Comments:

- A suggestion was made to distribute the neighborhood with 'flyers' as an education measure prior to the Police Department placing temporary parking restrictions. Sgt. Babcock answered this was not the departments' responsibility.

Ald. Fuller made suggestions to Committee members including a trial to be conducted, restrict parking from the corners and suggested that the Police Department and the Ward Aldermen observe how residents are parking. She said that it appears these residents are educated and motivated and she is hopeful they can self-regulate their street. Ald. Fuller then stated that if a trial is implemented; does not work it would be eliminated. Ald. Norton agreed.

Sgt. Babcock said that he would be fine with residents 'policing' themselves. The restriction was placed because of safety concerns. He then stated to the public and Committee members that if the Police Department has to return to Fairfield Street due to an issue, the emergency restriction will be implemented again. The Police Department will not be knocking on doors. Committee members agreed. Chair Ciccone stated to the public that he realizes it may be inconvenient to some that they have to move barrels, etc. to park but vehicles must be parked 'staggered' to accommodate emergency vehicle access.

Chair Ciccone said that this Committee has the authority on appeal items to hold a maximum of a 60-day trial.

Without further discussion, Ald. Fuller made the motion to hold this appeal for a 60-day trial to remove the no parking, any time, west side of Fairfield Street to allow parking on both sides of the street and requested that administratively the Department of Public Works restrict parking up to 50 feet from the corners. She then suggested that the Police Department conduct directed patrols and the Ward Aldermen observe how residents are parking. Committee members agreed 5-0-1, Ald. Ciccone abstained because in Traffic Council he voted in favor of a parking restriction. Ald. Schwartz was not present when voting.

Chair Ciccone stated he intends to discuss this trial in September 2014. Sgt. Babcock agreed to provide a report on this trial.

115-14

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Appeal of TC-1-14

Fairfield Street Parking Restriction

Existing Conditions

115-14



#115-14

Photos



5

#115-14

Recommendation Presented at Traffic Council

115-14



6