



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Satterthwaite
Bruce Walden
Bill Gray

FROM: Pat Pioletti

DATE: October 4, 2002

RE: Council resolution No. 2002-04-014R

The above referenced resolution (copy attached) calls for the staff to make certain efforts to address the parking needs of the students living in University-certified housing in the West Urbana neighborhood. Delora Siebrect and I met with Pam Voitik to explore possible strategies. Ms. Voitik expressed a willingness to cooperate on the overall question and potential solutions, but the specifics of the resolution were met with firm resistance.

The resolution contains four action points:

- 1. Reducing the cost to rent overnight parking spaces in Lot F23.** (This lot is located along Florida Ave. west of Lincoln Ave.) The U of I is not in a position to reduce rates for students. This would not be a fair tactic to use for everyone else in their system, and the students already are not compelled to pay for the summer session while others are. Ms. Voitik thinks that our rates are too low and should be raised to the point where they become more expensive than the university's so that it is not cheaper to park closer.
- 2. Providing effective security monitoring of Lot F23 at night.** Parking enforcement and the U of I Police Department already patrol this lot, and the university is not interested in providing additional patrols at this time. Further, the lot is equipped with emergency phones.
- 3. Provide transportation from Lot F23 to certified housing units.** The university isn't interested in providing additional transportation from this area since the current MTD service runs until 12 AM.
- 4. Providing overnight parking for students in existing University parking lots and in any new lots built in Urbana.** The University is agreeable to doing this, and in fact already allows students to rent spaces overnight in F 23, B 22 (Clark and Harvey), D 9 (Lincoln and Green), and E 14 (commuter lot west of Assembly Hall) if there is excess capacity. Additionally, if and when a parking structure is built in the East Campus area, they will build additional spaces so that some are available to students. The problem with this is that such a construction project is at least six years away.

In addition to the points of the resolution, Ms. Voitik offered the following information:

- 1. The U of I doesn't want to encourage students to bring even more vehicles onto campus. They do not want to provide storage parking, but prefer students take more advantage of MTD services already available, in which the university has a sizeable investment.**
- 2. Ms. Voitik suggested preparing a brochure warning PARENTS of the costs of parking, including permits, fines, lack of capacity in existing facilities, etc.**
- 3. The resolution focuses primarily on Lot F 23. The problem with looking there for an answer is that lot is full every year and has a substantial waiting list, which prohibits parking more cars there, and therefore won't provide any relief to the neighborhood.**

The U of I doesn't want to be the "bad guy" in this situation. Ms. Voitik offered to meet with interested council members to explore ways in which the university might participate in solving the parking problems of the neighborhood.

At this point, we are still in the process of evaluating the impact of the new parking regulations implemented in this neighborhood last month. Since the Council Resolution is specific to student parking needs and since the university involvement will be limited to addressing the needs of its students, I would suggest that those council members interested in this topic accept the offer to meet so that this dialogue may begin.

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-04-014R
RESOLUTION TO UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
REGARDING STUDENT PARKING NEEDS

WHEREAS, fifteen University-certified housing units providing occupancy for up to 737 students are located in the residential neighborhood east of Lincoln Avenue, and

WHEREAS, the students living in this University-certified housing park more than 200 cars overnight on neighborhood streets, and

WHEREAS, none of these housing units provides sufficient off-street parking space for their residents, and

WHEREAS, the number of people owning cars appears to increase every year, and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood lacks the capacity to accommodate the overnight parking needs of all of the students living in University-certified housing, and

WHEREAS, the only parking option in Urbana provided to students by the University of Illinois is located south of Florida Avenue in the remote parking Lot F23, and

WHEREAS, use of Lot F23 is considered by many students to be undesirable because of the cost, and unsafe at night because of the lack of security and lack of safe passage from vehicles to the nearest bus stop;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urbana City Council requests that the University of Illinois administration explore strategies for addressing the parking needs of students living in University-certified housing in Urbana including, but not limited to:

1. Reducing the cost to rent overnight parking spaces in Lot F23,
2. Providing effective security monitoring of Lot F23 at night,
3. Providing transportation from Lot F23 to certified housing units, and
4. Providing overnight parking for students in existing University parking lots on Lincoln Avenue and in any new parking lots built in Urbana;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to University of Illinois Chancellor Nancy Cantor, Vice-Chancellor Charles Colbert and Assistant Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Division of Campus Parking and Transportation Pamela Voitik requesting a dialogue about the parking needs of students living in Urbana.