

DATE: April 18, 2002

TO: Mayor Satterthwaite and
Urbana City Council Members

FR: Esther Patt

RE: Permit Only Parking for West Urbana

On the agenda for the April 22 committee meeting is discussion of a proposal for permit-only parking, weekdays, in a portion of west Urbana close to the University of Illinois. The purpose of the proposal is to facilitate use of the streets for parking by Urbana residents and their guests.

CURRENT PARKING RESTRICTION

Since 1975, the city has required permits for all cars parked on the streets between Green and Florida and Lincoln and Race between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Permits are sold only to residents of that area and cost \$135.00 per year. Guest permits are available for \$2.00 per night or \$5.00 for three nights. Tickets for parking without a permit cost \$10.00.

The purpose of this restriction was to prevent the use of neighborhood streets for overnight parking by people who did not live in the neighborhood. Twenty-seven years ago, that was the primary parking problem in this part of west Urbana.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

During the day, the neighborhood has become a free, commuter parking lot for University of Illinois staff and students. For the last few years, the number of cars parking on the streets of the neighborhood during the day has increased tremendously. University of Illinois staff and students who do not live in the neighborhood but do not want to pay to park on campus, arrive around 10:00 a.m. and most park for the entire day. Some employees park in metered spaces at 8:00 a.m. and then move their cars to the neighborhood after the overnight permit period expires at 10:00 a.m. People who live on the three blocks between Lincoln and Orchard complain that they and their guests can find no on-street parking on weekdays before 5:00 p.m. My observation confirms this.

PROPOSAL FOR DAYTIME PERMIT-ONLY PARKING

Last fall, city staff presented to city council a proposal for implementing a permit-parking program on weekdays in west Urbana. Modeled after a Bloomington, Indiana program, the proposal included resident permits for sale at a cost of \$15.00 per year and one guest permit for each household, also at a cost of \$15.00 per year. While many residents supported the plan, many opposed it. I surveyed Ward 1 residents and found that one-third of those responding to the survey supported the plan, one-third opposed it, and one-third said they would not support the plan unless permits were free and guest permits would be available in sufficient number to accommodate more than one guest. People reasonably argued the program would be pointless if residents could not have more than one guest park on the street at a time. People also said they did not want to have to keep visiting the city building to obtain permits. Most (not all) who opposed the proposal said they objected because they did not think they should have to pay to park on the street during the day, and they thought they would not be able to have more than one guest at a time.

RECOMMENDATION

I respectfully ask that the city council approve a motion requesting that the staff draft the necessary ordinance changes for city council review that would provide for August implementation of the following:

- The west Urbana permit-only parking restriction from 3:00 – 10:00 a.m. will be extended until 3:00 p.m. on certain streets*:

Busey Avenue from Vermont to Illinois

Coler from Washington to Illinois

Orchard Street from Vermont to Illinois

Vermont, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa and Washington from Lincoln to Orchard

Nevada, Oregon, California and Illinois from Lincoln to McCullough

* (Residents of High, Delaware, and Florida as well as people who live east of the described area, may want to be included. Input is still being solicited from those areas. At the time an ordinance is ready for approval by the council, a final decision about those areas would be made).

- Overnight permits costing \$135.00/year will still be needed to park from 3:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. (and overnight guest permits will remain available at a cost of \$2.00/night or \$5.00 for 3 nights).
- A car bearing a valid overnight permit will not be ticketed during the day.
- For those residents of the affected area who do not purchase overnight permits, daytime permits will be available at no charge for parking on the street from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays:
- One-year permits for residents will be vehicle-specific; proof of residency will be required.
- One day permits for use by residents' guests will not be vehicle specific and will be available in quantities of 20 at a time but may be used only for the purpose of guest parking. City ordinance will impose a fine and suspension of a household's eligibility to obtain guest permits if any member of the household is found to be using free, daytime parking permits for any purpose other than guest parking (i.e. to allow UIUC employees or students who are not visiting a resident to park on residential streets in west Urbana).

FISCAL IMPACT

Revenue from sale of overnight permits generates approximately \$54,000.00 per year. Revenue from tickets for parking without a permit generates approximately \$1,000.00 each week of enforcement. Total revenue for the current parking restriction (approximately \$100,000.00) exceeds the city's cost of parking enforcement in the area.

If the daytime program is adopted, tickets for violations will generate additional revenue. It is anticipated that the total cost of enforcement from 3:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will not exceed the amount of revenue generated by parking tickets and overnight permit sales.

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.