

SMRTO Memo

South Medford Residents Together

To: Medford City Council
From: Jim Silva SMRTO
Subject: Area Wide Resident Parking - Request

Since our request to speak at City Council, Mayor Burke's office yesterday sent an email to "be advised that the Linkage Committee voted unanimously (2 present, 1 absent) for funds to be used to perform a study of area wide residential permit parking in order to advise the Traffic Commission with fact based information for their determination."

The issues on Tonight's agenda is about FOUR different but very important problems that are happening in the South Medford area both for those who have a resident parking on their street and those that don't but are adversely effected by the program. I hope this helps you be aware of the parking problem issues and take a look at some of our temporary suggestions and as always advocate for us at Traffic Commission and to the Administration.

1. Small Street Resident Parking.
 - a. To many cars not enough spaces on Berwick Rd, Bradford Ave, Benton Rd, Kilsyth Rd, Shapley Ave, Hale, to name a few.
 - b. More resident stickers/visitor passes than spaces
 - c. 48 Hour Street parking limits are not being enforced.
 - d. Overuse of Visitor Parking Placards.
 - e. Living in a corner house you can park on adjacent street but only after you have been approved at Traffic Commission.

We Suggest:

- **Allow parking on Adjoining Streets once a certain number of Resident stickers are issued on smaller streets,**
- **Notifying residents that they can park on the adjoining street and enforce the 48 hour parking limit**

2. Streets that are have overnight Street Cleaning

- a. STREET CLEANING: Harvard st and Boston Avenue do not have alternative side parking for street cleaning. All of the surrounding streets are resident only. No place to legally park a car even though they register their cars here and live here.

We Suggest:

- **Allow parking on the surrounding street issuing a Temporary Emergency Pass for those whose cars are registered in the city of Medford**

- b. Or SNOW EMERGENCY: Main, Harvard, Medford, Warner and Boston Avenue are Snow emergency streets. Again no resident parking.

We Suggest:

- **The city should set up of alternative parking locations and or suspension of resident parking until the Snow emergency is lifted and a temporary EMERGENCY pass to those whose cars are registered in the city of Medford**

3. Enforcement of the 48 Hour Parking limit on Non Resident Parking Streets

- a. Winchester, Medford, Main Streets & Boston Avenue, Hicks Ave from the Somerville line and Hicks Avenue are have endured the cars days or weeks at a time.

We Suggest: Strictly enforce the 48 hour parking limit

4. Streets under Construction.

- a. Boston Avenue is under construction for the next couple of months but NO Provision were made for where to park cars during the day. Streets surrounding Boston Ave are resident only.

We Suggest: Suspension of resident parking on Warner, St. Clements Road and Bristol Road during the day or issuing temporary EMERGENCY pass to Boston Ave Residents whose cars are registered in the City of Medford until the construction is done and to strictly enforce the 48 hour parking rule.

We understand that this issue can be difficult to walk with, people have different opinions about Area Parking etc., but the Street by Street resident parking program in its current form is not working for many people in South Medford. So what we do at SMRTO is we talk about problems to the group, get feedback and then try to offer suggestion or solutions to the city.

Again I would like to say that we do appreciate your efforts in representing all of our interests at the traffic commission and to the Administration.

I have included a letter from a Bradford Avenue resident who couldn't be here and there some South Medford people from Shapley Ave and others who would like to speak about their situations.

Jim Silva
South Medford Residents Together
Tel: 781-350-5464

www.smrto.org



December 12, 2016

TO: Medford City Council

Re: Area Wide Resident Parking

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a long time South Medford resident, living on Granville Avenue since 1986. I would like to support the request for funds to be used to study the area wide residential permit parking, especially as it relates to South Medford.

Granville Avenue DOES have resident parking passes. It is a small street – but, like many other streets in South Medford it is population dense, with many, many vehicles using the area for on-street overnight parking. When both sides of the street are used for parking, even without the complication of snow narrowing the street – driving up and down the street can be compared to “threading a needle”. I often wonder how fire apparatus would get to my house if they were needed. These problems spill over to Winchester Street, which is used as a pass through road for traffic getting from Harvard Street to Broadway in Somerville, and vice versa. There are many cars that park along Winchester for extended periods of time, that complicate the parking there which spills over to side streets like the one I live on. It is unclear to me how many vehicles actually belong to Winchester Street residents, and how many belong elsewhere, but are left there as there are no repercussions.

I would like to see more enforcement of Medford resident parking on the streets that have it, especially ahead of a big storm. At the beginning of the bad snow year, 2015, a non-resident left his vehicle in front of my house and did not return for it until late evening the following day. Snow began, and mounted up so that by the time he came back for his vehicle, it was completely covered by snow. As this person was not a neighborhood person there was no way to locate him and get him to move his car. Plows had to drive around it which created another problem - There was so much snow that it changed how that end of the street could be plowed for the next 2 months and the street lost several potential parking places for that time. I support the idea of issuing temporary parking passes to vehicles registered to **Medford residents** to be able to use the adjoining streets for parking during snow emergencies. Especially during these emergencies the available spots should be for Medford residents.

The people in my area make use of the Tufts Park parking lot during street cleaning and snow emergencies. The city does take care of making sure the lot is plowed, which is much appreciated. This works out in the off-season, when the lot is not being used for park activity parking, and is often used to capacity. In the spring, summer, and early fall, it's barely adequate for the people coming to the park for activities, so can't really accommodate residents until very late in the evening when games, etc. are done for the night.

I would like to see the 48 hour parking limit on non resident parking streets enforced. There have been several complaints from my neighborhood logged on "See Click Fix" where the residents are trying to clear the street ahead of street cleaning, but are frustrated by several cars that have been abandoned for weeks at a time. We'll go through the same thing again the minute we have more than a couple of inches of snow. It's only December - and we can have big snow until April.

I would appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Thank you

Martha Marchand
5 Granville Avenue
Medford, MA

Hi Jim,

Unfortunately I cannot make the meeting on Oct 18, 2016. Believe me, I wish I could because Resident Parking is an extremely important issue with regards to livability in South Medford.

I support making the parking permits and visitor passes regional instead of street by street. On Bradford Ave alone, there are more legal residences than parking spaces available. Therefore, it is unfair and unethical to those who live on Bradford Ave, or many of the smaller side streets, to require parking permits for spaces that simply do not exist.

Additionally, strict and consistent parking enforcement is needed. Unfortunately, I have not seen Park Medford regularly enforce parking in South Medford. It is only after multiple phone calls to Park Medford's office and the Mayor's office that parking enforcement occurs. We have issues with illegally parked cars not registered to Medford constantly parking on Yale Street and the surrounding side streets. We have issues with commercial vehicles parking overnight in this neighborhood, and we have issues with visitor passes being abused and/or rotated among different individuals who are actual residents in surrounding apartments.

Thank you for your time focusing on this parking issue. Please share my email with the City Council.

Sincerely,

A. Laver

To: Medford City Council

From: Jen Cardello, Harvard Street Property Owner

Subject: Support for area-wide resident parking accommodations

Dear City Council Members,

Regarding the request by the South Medford Residents Together Organization to remedy street-specific permit parking issues, I am fully in support of these temporary measures and look forward to long-term adjustments to alleviate parking issues.

As a resident of Harvard Street for 13 years and now a landlord, I can vouch for the ongoing parking issues and need for remediation. Increasing parking flexibility is one way to address the issues (e.g., creating region-specific passes versus street-specific, lifting permit parking during snow emergencies, etc.).

I support SMRTO's recommendations and am happy to speak with you regarding these matters.

Sincerely,

Jen Cardello

Owner: 232/234 Harvard Street, Medford

December 7, 2016

Traffic Commission:

Our house is at the corner of Shapley Ave. and Bow Street. We only have one car and our tenants do not have any car. Earlier this year we were told that we could no longer park on Bow Street even though most of our house is on Bow Street. This street parking regulation has cause so much stress since it was enforced. We could not find parking space anywhere on Shapley Ave. after dark. The street is too small for so many cars in our neighborhood. We need a new regulation where we can park our only car anywhere in our neighborhood not just on our street.

We talked to a parking-meter man. He agreed not to ticket us if we park on Bow Street, but he would not guarantee that any new meter men will ticket us in the future. So we are in the mercy of parking meter men.

We fully support Jim Silva's recommendation to bring a temporarily solution to this parking chaos in Medford. We hope the City of Medford adopt the neighborhood parking regulation soon.

Sincerely,

Nanan & Chris Coughlin
28 Shapley Avenue
Medford, MA 02155

To: Medford Traffic Commission

From: Jeanne L. Flynn

Cc: Jim Silva

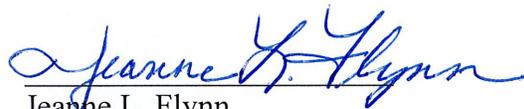
Date: December 7, 2016

Re: Area Wide Resident Parking – Request – South Medford

I am writing to voice my wholehearted support for SMRTO's Area Wide Resident Parking Request as a straight-forward and well thought out approach to alleviate and/or cure some important resident parking problems that have plagued South Medford and its residents for many years.

As a resident of Hicks Avenue, I would welcome the 48 hour street parking limit being enforced as well as instituting city-wide resident parking. At present, out-of-state vehicles are sometimes parked for days and/or weeks on end without being moved, especially after snowstorms. In addition, Somerville residents vie for South Medford parking spots as well-- Somerville resident stickers/campaign bumper stickers are dead giveaways. Since the inception of Park Medford and its meters, many scofflaws have merely found new parking spots (for free) on South Medford's unrestricted streets. Therefore, I support extending the parking permits/visitor passes to include all streets in Medford. Of course, consistent enforcement by Park Medford is key.

I believe SMRTO's suggestions will greatly benefit our community and urge that you move forward in this regard.



Jeanne L. Flynn
24 Hicks Avenue
Medford, MA 02155
781-395-3759

David Seuss
625 Boston Avenue, Unit 3
Medford, MA, 02155

December 6, 2016

This letter is in support of the SMRTO (South Medford Residents Together) memo brought in front of the city council by Jim Silva on October 18, 2016.

Where I live in South Medford:

I bought a condominium located at 625 Boston Avenue in the fall of 2004. I have a driveway, but it is a tandem driveway and we cannot use all three parking spaces because it requires using the adjoining driveway to park in the second or third spaces on my driveway, and we do not have access. This means that two out of the three condominium owners in my home have to park on the street every day.

I live on the block bordered by Harvard Street where St Clemens is located, with Broadway/Ball Square on the other end. My condominium is located about a ½ dozen homes away from the Broadway end of my block.

Since moving to the neighborhood my home's co-owners and I have seen the parking situation on Boston Avenue become increasingly difficult, for the following reasons:

- **We do not have resident parking.**
 - The street next to Boston Ave – Bristol Road – has resident parking which helps preserve parking spaces for people who live on that street. This means we cannot park merely one block away in our own city because we cannot apply for a permit to park there.
 - My street borders the very densely populated Ball Square area that employs dozens of people and even more than that visit the square every day, and they often park on my street.
 - When I asked SMRTO how we can get resident parking, I was told I had to get signatures from my neighbors that proved there were more residents for than against resident parking on my block. That is by no means a reasonable or fair solution. Medford can collect data and see for itself that resident parking on Boston Avenue is necessary and should happen very soon.
 - The City of Somerville has been very successful in how it manages parking on its streets. They reinforce rules and routinely issue citations to those who park without permits or visitor passes past 48 hours. There is no reason why Medford cannot be as diligent in enforcing its parking restrictions, especially in the South Medford neighborhoods that border Somerville.
 - For about 6 weeks during October and November of this year, my street was under major construction to install new water pipes. We were not allowed to park on my street between 7am and 5pm, 7 days a week. No alternative parking was provided to us. We could not park nearby our bordering streets require

either a Somerville or a Medford parking permit. We did not get much advance warning regarding the parking ban.

- The temporary pipe running down the street had metal bracings which included protruding metal with nut/bolt on the end. When parking one evening my car got too close to one of these bracings – which were hard to see from the driver's side of the car - I popped a tire and damaged my front bumper – both of which needed replacing which cost me well over \$500. I expect Medford to be more accommodating during times like these and was very disappointed to be left to our own devices.
- Residents of the condominium complex in front of my home, who have parking spaces in that buildings underground garage often park on the street.
- Cars that park on my street for more than 48 hours are not monitored sufficiently by the city of Medford, often resulting in long-term parking
- There is a new apartment building (Spire) under construction very close to my home that will something like 42 apartments to rent next year. The building is marketed to those who do not have cars, and prefer to take public transportation. This marketing message means there will be little-to-no parking on their property. Residents of that building who will own cars will be forced to park on/near Boston Avenue, making the parking situation all the more difficult.
- When Somerville updated their parking permit rules a few years ago or so, Somerville residents had to have their name on an apartment lease in order to qualify for a permit. Those who were not on a lease were no longer able to get a permit. This resulted in many Somerville residents parking on my street in Medford.

Regarding the memo from SMRTO, I endorse each and every identified problem outlined in the document:

1. Small Street Resident Parking
 - a. On the streets listed in the memo there are more cars than spaces for residents. Visitor parking passes are overused. 48 hour parking limits are not enforced, just like they are not enforced on Boston Avenue
 - b. I support the suggested solutions proposed in the memo
2. Streets and weekly/seasonal street sweeping and snow emergency parking bans
 - a. We can only park on one side of our block. Referencing my aforementioned issues parking on my block, on the evenings/days where we cannot park on the street, we have no alternative places to park.
 - b. I support the suggested solutions proposed in the memo
3. Enforcement of 48 hour parking limits on Non resident parking streets
 - a. As mentioned in my letter, and referencing the SMRTO memo, these 48 hour bans need to be enforced if they are to be helpful in any way.
 - b. I support the suggested solution proposed in the memo
4. Streets under construction

- a. As mentioned in my letter, the recent construction and no provision of alternative parking was a major nuisance and we were left to our own devices with no support from the city of Medford.
- b. I support the suggested solution proposed in the memo

I appreciate the efforts of SMRTO and Jim Silva to work collaboratively with the city of Medford to address these pressing parking issues. I am hopeful that the suggested solutions in the SMRTO memo will be considered thoughtfully and evaluated based on data-driven activity to investigate the problems.

Sincerely,


David Seuss

From: Jim Silva
To: "[Linda Coletti](#)"
Bcc: "jfsilva@avlisconsulting.com"
Subject: RE: Good Morning
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 9:32:51 AM

Hello Linda..

No problem it's a busy time of year I hope your Thanksgiving was great.

SMRTO had provided the proposed guidelines to Mayor Burke as a courtesy to keep city hall in the "know" about constituency issues.

We are pleased about the OCD funding, have reached out to Lauren thanking her in her efforts as she has understanding of the urgency in our densely populated area of South Medford. The issue with the study is that from funding to implementation can take anywhere between 24 to 36 months. If I am incorrect in this time assessment, please let me know what the administrations timeline expectation is.

With Winter parking, Street Cleaning again in Spring, Construction zones and Snow Emergencies, all of these parking problems are immediate. The community has taken the time by formulating common sense, inexpensive recommendations; steps that can be implemented almost immediately, ultimately providing relief to those who are getting tickets without any alternative parking options for would could be next 2 to 3 years again, a realistic timeline for the traffic study can be presented and implemented.

In the next week we will send you a copy of our cost analysis and procedures based on:

- Suggested Cost of printing the placards
- Suggested design for of the Placards
- Suggested Citizen Notifications.
- Suggested requirements (Car registration, Excise tax bill, Bank Account Statement or utility bill) needed to acquire

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate.

Thanks again and Seasons Greetings!

Jim Silva
South Medford Residents Together
"Residents together building a Community"
781 350 5464
www.smrto.org
@smrto

From: Linda Coletti [mailto:lcoletti@medford-ma.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 3:18 PM

To: Jim Silva <info@smrto.org>

Subject: RE: Good Morning

Hi Jim – please forgive my delay in response. If I understand it correctly, I believe the Office of Community is having a traffic study done and then it will to the Traffic Commission. ~Linda

From: Jim Silva [<mailto:info@smrto.org>]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:10 AM

To: Linda Coletti <coletti@medford-ma.gov>

Subject: Good Morning

Hi Linda

Hope you had a good weekend...

Here is the attachment I called you about on Friday.

I spoke at City Council in October 18th about this, was prepared to attend Traffic Commission meeting in November but that meeting was postponed due to the election day until December 8th. I will be presenting this to the traffic Commission at that time.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving

Jim

Jim Silva

South Medford Residents Together

"Residents together building a Community"

781 350 5464

www.smrto.org

@smrto

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