



CITY OF KIRKLAND
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 587-3000
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Jim Dare, Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator

Date: April 7, 2008

Subject: Letter to Mr. Will Henschel regarding the City process for 'no parking' red curb zones

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter responding to Mr. Will Henschel who has requested an explanation of the City process for establishing 'no parking' red curb zones.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

On April 3rd, 2008 Mr. Henschel sent an e-mail titled "Parking Discrimination" to the City Council expressing his concern over the establishment of an extended (approximately 30' in length) 'no park' red curb zone on the 6400 block of Lake Blvd NE. The property across the street from this zone has three feet of red curb on either side of its driveway. He requested an explanation of the process used by the City of Kirkland in establishing such zones.

The letter drafted in response to Mr. Henschel agrees that parking is an important resource that should be preserved when possible, and explains that RCW 46.61.570 makes it illegal to park within five feet of a driveway whether or not the curb is painted. The letter describes the City's process for establishing 'no-park' zones. This process is for technical staff to review each location for sight distance, traffic speeds, traffic volumes, and other factors. Finally, the letter confirms that process was followed for the location in question.

From: HENSCHEL Will [mailto:Will.HENSCHEL@us.thalesgroup.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 11:19 AM

To: KirklandCouncil

Subject: Parking Discrimination

To whom it should concern,,

I am a Kirkland resident since 1984; before that I was born and raised in Bothell. I have watched this town evolve or devolve, depending on your perception. My main concern is how the City Council has turned public parking into a revenue machine as well as a has/has not mechanism. Specifically, the way curbs are designated no parking (RED). The property at 6421 Lake Blvd. NE has three feet of red zone out of a either side of driveway. The property across the street in a newer, more expensive building has a 30+ red zone (which seems to expand every year) out of their driveway. Street parking is at a premium on the boulevard; how do you explain this discrepancy? I have compiled a list of other Kirkland residents concerned with this phenomenon and request a response to this complaint. Please provide me with the protocol/process that defines no parking red zones.

Thank You,
Will Henschel
8219 NE 115th Place
Kirkland, WA 9034
206 354-173

DRAFT

April 15, 2008

Will Henschel
8219 NE 115th Place
Kirkland, WA. 98034

Subject: Parking Restrictions on Lake Washington Blvd

Dear Mr. Henschel:

Thank you for the e-mail you sent to the City Council expressing your concerns about parking restrictions on Lake Washington Boulevard. I agree that parking is an important resource in Kirkland and should be preserved whenever possible.

Per RCW 46.61.570, it is illegal to park within 5 feet of a driveway, whether the curb is painted or not. However, at times extra 'no parking' is needed for adequate sight distance between motorists trying to enter the street and motorists passing the driveway. When sight distance issues are brought to our attention, technical staff will investigate the situation. They measure for sight distances and consider the traffic speed and the volume of traffic on the street and the volume of traffic using the driveway. The investigator will also consider other factors that would influence the ability of a motorist to stop in time to avoid a collision. Since the availability of on-street parking is so important, the investigator may implement a trial parking restriction that minimizes the parking loss. If the trial does not work well enough, the 'no parking' zone may be extended.

Staff looked into the extended 'no parking' zone you described across the street from 6421 Lake Blvd NE and confirmed it followed this process.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns to the City Council.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: Daryl Grigsby, Director, Public Works
Dave Godfrey, Public Works