

**City of Hyattsville Administrative Hearing
Residential Parking Zone Designation
4500 Block of Emerson Street**

**Monday, January 29, 2024
6:00 PM**

City Staff Present:

- Reggie Bagley, Emergency Operations and Parking Manager
- Gary Bullis, Parking Supervisor
- Laura Reams, City Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM. Clerk Reams provided details of the meeting agenda to include an introduction by Emergency Operations and Parking Manager Bagley, a presentation from Parking Supervisor Bullis on the residential parking petition request and an opportunity for individuals to make public comment.

Manager Bagley introduced himself and provided a brief overview of the request for a residential permit parking zone for the 4500 block of Emerson Street. He introduced Parking Supervisor, Gary Bullis to provide a detailed presentation of the request and staff analysis to date.

Supervisor Bullis shared a presentation with attendees. The presentation included a map of the requested parking zone, summary of the petition received, and staff analysis of the available parking in the area. Supervisor Bullis noted that residential parking zone petitions were required to have at least 51% of the signatures of residents in the requested zone and the petition received for the 4500 block of Emerson Street had 100% of the signatures of residents in the requested zone.

Supervisor Bullis provided an analysis of the requested area noting that there was 217 feet of parking space available in the 4500-block providing 11 parking spaces using 19 feet per vehicle. He also noted the nearby existing residential parking zone, Zone 11, which includes Burlington Road and Buchanan Street. Supervisor Bullis also summarized the existing businesses on Emerson Street. Supervisor Bullis reported that the City's parking staff conducted a parking study of the area to determine the occupancy of parking spaces on different days and times. He noted that on average, 7-8 spaces were utilized.

In closing, Supervisor Bullis noted the three options available to the City; approve the request for a residential parking permit zone, approve the request and incorporate the requested area into existing Zone 11, or deny the request. He said the intent of the hearing was to gather public feedback. Following the hearing, City staff would compile their data and make a recommendation on the zone to the City Administrator within 30 days. The City Administrator would communicate the staff recommendation to the City Council. Should the City Council take no action within 30 days of receiving the report, the City Administrator's recommendation would stand. Supervisor Bullis said the recommendation would include a recommendation on the total number of permits to be issued to each residence. He also said that consideration would be given to the businesses on the street.

Clerk Reams opened the meeting up to comments from attendees. She noted that one comment had been received electronically earlier in the day and it was shared with Parking staff and would be included in the analysis.

Eva McDonald asked a question regarding the consideration of commercial properties on the street, stating that spaces were often used by individuals from the businesses, particularly on the south side of the street. She asked Supervisor Bullis to elaborate on how consideration would be given to businesses.

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Supervisor Bullis noted that there were 11 parking spaces in the area and those 11 spaces would not be divided up to the 4 residences, adding that consideration as to the number of permits given to each resident would include looking at which residents had existing driveways. He said there may be additional spaces available for businesses after permits have been given to the residents.

Ted Ferris said that he was a business owner on the street and that occasionally his business used street parking. He hoped that consideration would be given to the businesses who also needed parking.

Bill Lanning said that he was with individuals who did not speak English and asked if translation services were available. Clerk Reams said that there was not a staff member present who could translate. Mr. Lanning said that they would share a summary of the individual's comments. He stated that residents had concerns specifically with the auto repair shop on the street utilizing spaces for long term parking of damaged vehicles. He said that many of the vehicles parked on the street for long periods of time were not owned by residents of the street. He added that he did not believe there were any concerns about Mr. Ferris's business.

Supervisor Bullis said that Parking staff were aware of issues with vehicles from the auto shop and citations were issued when appropriate.

Clerk Reams said that comments in both English and Spanish could be submitted to cityclerk@hyattsville.org

Bill Lanning asked for clarification on the next steps.

Clerk Reams provided a summary of the next steps for the parking petition.

Eva McDonald reiterated the concern with vehicles being left parked on the street for several days and said he did not believe the vehicles belonged to residents who lived on the street.

Everette McDonald said it was an issue with the auto body shop parking cars in the residential area. He said that the alley was often blocked by parked cars. He also noted that he did not have concerns with the cabinet shop who was adjacent to the 4500-block but that the cars were from the 4600-block.

Bill Lanning said that cars from the auto shop block a neighbor's driveway and they cannot get back and forth to his home. He said that the issue seemed to stem from the auto shop leaving cars on the street.

No other individuals wished to make public comment.

Manager Bagley closed the hearing by thanking everyone for their participation and reviewed the next steps.

Clerk Reams thanked residents for attending the hearing and said that individuals who wished to provide additional comments could email cityclerk@hyattsville.org, noting that comments could be submitted in English and Spanish.

The hearing ended at 6:30 PM

The following electronic comments were received by the City Clerk's Office.

Mr. Thomas submitted an electronic comment on January 29, 2024. Mr. Thomas noted the commercial businesses located on Emerson Street and advocated for a solution to include commercial parking. He noted that the businesses receive deliveries and parking on both sides of the street may adversely affect deliveries

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due to reduced space to navigate trucks. Mr. Thomas also asked if residential parking would be allowed in front of the Food Forest, stating that doing so may encourage multiple residential vehicles. Mr. Thomas also asked if the yellow curb from the stop sign located on the 4600 block could be reduced by two feet to allow a full vehicle space and if repairs were scheduled for the alley running parallel to the CSX tracks.

Ted Ferris submitted an electronic comment on January 31, 2024. Mr. Ferris stated his concern regarding the proposed change in parking and stated that commercial businesses rely heavily on street parking for customer visits. He suggested opening a dialogue between the businesses and homeowners to find a mutually agreeable solution.