



## ***Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives***

Robert "Gabe" DeLuca, Chair    Rodney Pratt, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888  
Washington Boulevard

The Transportation Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Vice Chair Pratt and Committee Member Reps. Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore and Patterson. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. DeLuca and Franzetti. Also present were Reps. Fedeli, McMullen, Quinones and Zelinsky; Robert Zaitooni, Traffic Engineer; and Deborah Billington, Cove Neighborhood Association.

Vice Chair Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">T29.063</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for publication</u> ; Amending Chapter 231, Vehicles And Traffic, Section 6, Prohibited Stopping, Standing Or Parking, To Prohibit Parking On City Streets For More Than Seventy-Two Hours. 11/15/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 12/29/16 – No Action Taken	<b>Approved, as amended, 5-0-0</b>

Vice Chair Pratt read into the record a letter he received from a constituent:

Transportation Committee Members:

I am writing in regard to a proposed ordinance amendment that would cap street parking at 72 hours. I understand the intent and would like to express my concern for unintended effects of the amendment. It is common for my wife and I to travel for a few days every couple of months. During this period, we park our vehicle on the side of the street outside our apartment building. If the ordinance passed as proposed, we run the risk of having our vehicle ticketed and towed every time we travel for a long weekend. Given the above scenario, perhaps another solution can be found to limit the abandonment of vehicles and not punish regular people who do not have access to the private garage.

Mr. Zaitooni and the Committee discussed the proposed changes, as follows:

- This ordinance was proposed in response to complaints about the lack of parking on City streets and vehicles that don't move for several weeks

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:00:29

- The proposed amendment has both benefits and consequences, but he feels the benefits outweigh the consequences – it will increase available parking, remove unsightly vehicles and prevent business vehicles from being parked on the street
- 72 hours may be too short to accommodate people being ill or away
- The Traffic Commission could waive the fine in the event of an emergency
- Most of the complaints the City receives relate to vehicles that haven't moved in several weeks.
- Other changes might be appropriate, including restricting peoples' ability to park near mailboxes or driveways
- The City would be able to enforce this revision
- The clock would probably not start until the City received a complaint

A motion to amend the ordinance to change 72 hours to 120 hours was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Giordano, Moore and Patterson in favor).

A motion to approve the ordinance for publication, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore and Patterson in favor).

- <sup>2</sup>. [T29.064](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Urban Engineers Inc.; **Approved 5-0-0**  
 RFQ #704, Traffic Signal System Optimization.  
 12/13/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
 01/12/17 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Zaitooni explained that:

- This RFQ was issued because of a \$3 million grant for a reduction of delays and an improvement in air quality, which includes the reconstruction of six signals and the optimization of all traffic signals
- 5 applicants responded to the RFQ, which was narrowed to 3 and then Urban Engineers was selected unanimously to design and implement the optimization project, based upon their previous experience, including Norwalk
- This project is expected to be completed in 18 months, although one traffic corridor will be done sooner as a test
- They will look at traffic patterns throughout the day
- There will be several opportunities for public input, including public information sessions, firmware and a website

A motion to approve this agreement was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore and Patterson in favor).

- <sup>3</sup>. [T29.067](#) RESOLUTION; Designating a Parking Meter Zone **Approved 5-0-0**  
 (Amending Resolution No. 3802).  
 01/03/17 – Submitted by Mayor Martin

Mr. Zaitooni and Rep. Pratt explained that:

- the address for this zone was not properly designated in the prior resolution
- the resolution now has the correct address

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:29:00

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:46:30

- the location should have been at Stillwater and Virgil in front of the Western Union, which the City receives numerous complaints about
- Enforcement on these meters will be the same as for the rest of the City
- Representative Pratt is the District Rep, and the store owner has requested this assistance

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Pratt, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore and Patterson in favor).

- <sup>4</sup>4. [T29.065](#)      REVIEW; Traffic Signage.      **Report Made**  
12/21/16 – Submitted by Rep. McMullen

Rep. McMullen explained that he brought this item because he finds much of the signage throughout town. He was told by Mr. Zaitooni to go through the Citizens Service Bureau. He believes that there should be education and a reduction in the amount of signage. His big concern is the bicycle lanes.

Mr. Zaitooni stated that he does not have the resources or staff to review the signs. Some times the school zone speed is the same as the regular speed limit (25 mph), but they may replace the signs in those zones with “fines doubled” signs.

- <sup>5</sup>5. T29.066      REVIEW; Traffic Calming Measures for Turn of River      **Report Made**  
Road.  
01/03/17 – Submitted by Rep. Quinones

Rep. Quinones stated that there was a study done and some traffic calming measures have been put into place. Mr. Zaitooni stated that the City has a policy for speed humps with thresholds that must be met. They don’t recommend speed humps on collector roads, particularly since they divert traffic. Calming measures will be implemented incrementally. They do not want to divert traffic from the road. They will put down striping when the weather improves.

Rep. McMullen stated that since this involves his district, he should have been notified of this.

- <sup>6</sup>6 T29.058      REVIEW; Status of the Residential Parking Permit      **Report Made**  
Program.  
09/07/16 - Submitted by Rep. Fedeli  
09/29/16 – Report Made & Held in Committee

Mr. Zaitooni reviewed the proposed changes to the current program. Changes include:

- Streamlining the application process
- Reducing the number of passes for each owner based upon the available capacity on street and off street
- Giving the Director of Operations emergency powers
- Addressing seasonal issues

Committee members requested that he provide the Board office with a redlined copy of the ordinance after it has been reviewed by legal..

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<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:51:27

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:07:24

<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp 01:20:30

Vice Chair Pratt adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rodney Pratt, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).