

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Establishing a residential parking zone to include the east side of Orange Street, between Audubon and Trumbull Streets, and both sides of Trumbull Street, from Orange Street to State Street. (Alder Abigail Roth)

REPORT: 1514-12

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Twenty-three residents of 411, 413, and 415 Orange Street; 28, 30, and 34 Trumbull Street; and 714 State Street have signed a petition asking that a Residential Parking Zone be established to include the east side of Orange Street, between Audubon and Trumbull Street, and both sides of Trumbull Street from Orange to State Streets. The petition states that “this RPZ designation is much needed and would be of great benefit to the neighborhood since there is presently a serious shortage of on-street parking for area residents.”

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Within the proposed zone there are 28 metered parking spaces on Trumbull Street and none on Orange Street, which is a three-lane street (two northbound, one southbound) that serves as a connecting road between downtown, East Rock, and I-91, including bike lanes or sharrows for much of its length. Being on the edge of downtown, the neighborhood is densely populated with commercial establishments, multiple-family homes, and apartment buildings, creating a demand for parking that exceeds supply. An existing residential parking zone (RPZ 3) already exists for the streets immediately to the north, while much of the parking to the south and west is metered, and the street grid is constrained to the east by railroad tracks, providing few parking options for residents. Section 29-55(b) of the City’s Code of Ordinances states

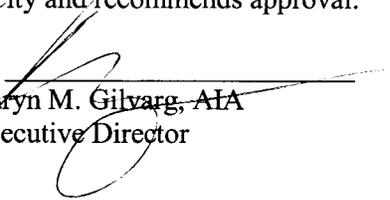
When signs are erected designating a block, or a portion of a block, as a part of a residential parking zone, no person shall park a vehicle along the street curb in such designated block or portion of a block, without having displayed in plain view a permit to park in such designated zone. However, upon petition by a member of the board of aldermen for a designation as below described within the ward represented by such alderman, the traffic authority may designate time limit parking within specified portions of residential parking zones, which time limits shall not apply to vehicles displaying a residential parking permit.

This provision within the Code of Ordinances would give residents of the proposed RPZ the ability to park at the 28 metered spaces along Trumbull Street at all hours of the day without paying. Currently, the only place in the city where such an arrangement exists is in the vicinity of St. Raphael’s, on George Street between Orchard Street and Sherman Street. There would not be any expected negative impacts to commercial establishments in the area, as customers would be able to use any available metered spaces within the RPZ on Trumbull Street, as well as customer-only parking lots and other metered spaces on State Street, Audubon Street, and further west on Trumbull Street. All drivers would be allowed to park in the metered spaces without paying during off hours, currently 9PM-8AM Monday through Saturday, and all day Sunday.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Order in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: January 20, 2016
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director