

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, September 26, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.
Petition Request For Change Of Existing Permit Parking Restrictions
In the 9700-9800 Block Of 53rd Avenue

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Milligan, Krouse, Catlin, Perry, Fellows, and Hampton; Student Liaison Jesse Blitzstein.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Olson and Peña-Melnyk

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services.

Mayor Brayman announced that this Public Hearing was being held to discuss the petition request for a change in the existing residential permit parking restrictions in the 9700-9800 Block of 53rd Avenue.

Bob Ryan provided an introduction and stated that 66% of the residents on this block signed the petition for this request. The residents believe there is a continued problem with parking on this block by non-residents. They desire to change the hours of enforcement to 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 midnight Monday through Friday by permit only.

Lourene Miovski, 9818 53rd Avenue: She initiated the petition because of parking problems on Friday afternoons resulting from traffic at the Al-Huda school.

Fazlul Kabir, 9817 53rd Avenue: He opposes this restriction. It will be inconvenient when they have guests. Should not restrict parking for the entire week for a problem on one afternoon. The NCPCA traffic committee report recommends that Al-Huda go to two worship services on Fridays. Let's find out if that helps before deciding on this petition request.

Mahfuzur Rahman, 9805 53rd Avenue: He opposes this restriction and believes it would be a hardship. Recommends the Council wait to see how the NCPCA recommendations work before making this decision. The problem is only on Friday afternoons; should not restrict parking all week.

Moira Maguire, 717 Devonshire Road, Takoma Park, MD 20912: A member of the Al-Huda community. The traffic issue is a concern to all of us and they are working to address the problems. The Monday through Friday restriction seems extreme for a one-hour problem on Friday afternoon.

Tony Yanchulis, 9815 53rd Avenue: Supports this petition request. You can't appreciate how bad this problem is if you don't live there.

Tom Bannister, 9818 53rd Avenue: Supports this petition request. The problem has gotten worse in the last two years, mostly on Friday afternoons. He would not be opposed to a Friday afternoon-only restriction on 53rd Avenue.

Mohammed Taluckder, 4714 Mangum Road: He is opposed to the petition request. Believes permit parking is low-class and reflects poorly on the neighborhood.

Habibah Taalibdin, 9811 53rd Avenue: He is opposed to the petition request and believes it is an extreme restriction for a one-hour problem. These issues are common around any church. They are working hard to try to solve the problem. Wait until the decision is made on going to two services on Fridays.

Mohammed M. Hossain, 9803 53rd Avenue: He is opposed to this request. The parking problem is exacerbated by the 8 houses on that block that have no off-street parking, so not all of the cars are from the Al-Huda community. This is an extreme response to a problem for two hours on a Friday afternoon. He believes this measure would take away the religious rights of some people. What do they do at other churches?

Vaqar Ahmed, 5028 Branchville Road: Believes the person who needs a space in front of his house for a handicap person should get a handicap sign. This problem should be handled as they do at other churches.

There being no further public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk