



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 7/19/17 Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting.
3. Public Comment
4. Staff update on IDOT-permitted pedestrian safety measures at the intersection of Lake Street with Keystone Avenue.
5. Staff update regarding parking on the 1500 block of Ashland Avenue.
6. Request by Teresa McKenzie at 7605 ½ W. North Avenue to convert one of the parking spaces in front of her business to an ADA space and to add a 2-hr time limit on the remaining 3 spaces.
7. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – 7:30 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Traffic and Safety Commission was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present at this meeting were Chairman Reese, Commissioner Gillis, Commissioner Valenti, Commissioner Cleary, Commissioner Osga, and Commissioner Wade.

Old Business

Chairman Rees asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Gillis made the motion and Commissioner Valenti seconded the motion. All commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

Public Comment

Bob Ray of 830 Keystone has concerns about the crosswalks at Lake and Keystone. He is seeking some proposed solutions from the committee to the concern he raised a few months ago. It appears to him this is a fixable problem, but senses that it is not being addressed properly. Mr. Ray believes having well marked, well painted crosswalks and more traffic enforcement will help the commuters.

Chairman Rees advises that some of this can be done informally by making a recommendation to Public Works with respect to striping, signage and using a flashing light.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer adds there are different types of striping and signage that can be done. Anything that is proposed to do needs to be approved by IDOT. He will reach out to IDOT to see what options they do have and bring that up to the next meeting.

New Business – Request that consideration be given to install an Accessible Parking Zone on the east side of Grace Lutheran Church between the hours of 8:00 am and 12:00 pm (Sundays only)

Jeff Loster advises that from a signage prospective there is a lot going on in that area. Due to the school there are loading zones. This really does not affect anything since on Sunday mornings the loading zones do not apply. From a signage prospective, there will be three signs on a post in front of the church. This might make things a bit complex.

Commissioner Cleary made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Valenti to propose signage for Accessible Parking from 8:00am to 12:00 pm on Sundays only. On a limited section on Bonnie Brae south of Divison.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

New Business – Request that consideration be given to install a No Parking Zone on the east side of Ashland Avenue, between North Avenue and LeMoyne Street, Monday through Saturday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

Sean Toohey lives at 1526 Ashland Avenue. He is proposing No Parking on the east side, from North Avenue to LeMoyne. In addition to some form of restricted parking on the west side from North to LeMoyne. He's witnessed employees from the immediate care facility parking as early as 7:00 am and not leaving until 8:00 pm. Neighbors on both sides of him are experiencing difficulties getting out of their driveways. Mr. Toohey spoke to the person in charge of the facility, she indicated they do not want their employees to park on their parking lot. This will leave patients plenty of parking. He has walked by the facility and noticed there is always ten to fifteen parking spots available. In the months of March and April he tracked fifteen to twenty cars every day of the week parking on his block.

Lisa Walls lives in the condominium on the corner of North and Ashland. Her condominium provides one parking space per unit. Her mother and son each have a vehicle, therefore having street parking would be beneficial. When they have company or the landscapers go they have no place to park. She is proposing some kind of permit parking so residents are able to park on the street.

Donna Schuler of 1533 Ashland Avenue feels like a prisoner with cars parked right up to her driveway and across from her. She does not comprehend why the employees are not allowed to park in the parking lot. Weekdays are the worst and the cars remain parked on the street all day.

Sadie Calvin lives on 1510 Ashland Avenue, she was under the assumption one of the requirements for the facility was that they had to have their own parking. She has called the them and they are very dismissive. She is simply referred to administration at Loyola. The other argument Mrs. Calvin has is the parking on both sides of the street. She fears for the safety of the children, the vehicles make it impossible to see them going into the street.

Commissioner Gillis thinks the real problem here is that the person running the facility has instructed the employees to not park in their lot. One possibility is sending a very stern letter to get them to go back to their original obligation. Before any signage is put in place they can have Eric Palm, Village Administrator send out a very firm letter. If the letter does not work they can impose some parking restrictions.

Commissioner Osga likes the idea of sending a letter to the immediate care facility. In regards to safety, he trusts clearing one side of the street will make these cars go find parking elsewhere. Making the east side of the street a No Parking Zone might solve 65-70 percent of the issue. This is a way to solve the problem quickly and then solve it better in the future.

Commissioner Osga made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Gillis to send a letter promptly to the immediate care facility and wait to see how the letter works. Rejects the motion of the existing request to do a No Parking Zone on the north side of Ashland, anticipating for information of how the letter worked.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

New Business – Review of Chicago Avenue design as it relates to traffic calming measures as recommended by the Village’s Design Engineering Consultant.

Bill McDonald of 803 Bonnie Brae read the Village’s Consultant Design and he has an alternative design to propose. As a bike rider he recommends that instead of the three bump-outs they do a bike lane for the first time in River Forest. He has not found anything that suggests bump-outs promote safety. On the other hand he feels they are dangerous to bicyclists like him. He proposes that they consider making a bike lane on both sides of Chicago Avenue. Approximately four years ago parking was banned from Bonnie Brae to Harlem. Mr. McDonald retrieved the police statistics prior to banning parking. There were an average of five accidents per year. Since the banning of parking at this corner the accident rate has been reduced by half. The cars who parked in front of his house now park a block west on Bonnie Brae and Clinton. Cars back up from Harlem going east all the way to Clinton. This creates an obstruction to the people who are going north on Bonnie Brae. Putting a bump-out will make those people going north on Bonnie Brae move even more further out.

William Davis of 754 Bonnie Brae agrees with Mr. McDonald on a lot of the points he made. If you take out the highest frequency intersections in River Forest, Bonnie Brae and Chicago Avenue is still a high accident location. Mr. Davis believes that removing parking all together on that area will eliminate any future car accidents. He had not thought about adding a bike lane, but thinks it’s a great idea to add them to River Forest.

Jerry Dembrowski of 751 Keystone Avenue believes adding the bump-outs are not a good idea. If you have bike lanes, parking lanes and traffic lanes this will create continuously traffic jams on Chicago Avenue. He trusts that adding bump-outs will help in slowing down some of the traffic without creating a huge backup.

Chairman Rees noticed that the traffic light at Harlem and Chicago is so brief. Cars are lined up for blocks waiting to cross Harlem. This light is controlled by IDOT, questions if lengthening the time might alleviate some of the traffic in this area. Advises asking IDOT to review it since this appears to be part of the problem.

Commissioner Gillis addresses the recommendations made by the Engineer. These include bump-outs going east from Thatcher on Keystone on the four corners, a bump-out on Jackson and half a bump-out on the south side of Bonnie Brae. Additional signage such as “Yield to Pedestrians” were also suggested.

Commissioner Osga feels the proposal on Keystone does not suite what they need to accomplish. They need to review Forest and Chicago Avenue to slow traffic at this intersection. Proposes to

have the consultant review this intersection. Considers a bump-out would be the only way to make these cars reduce speed at his area.

Jeff Loster, Village Engineer advises we request the consultant to study the feasibility of adding bike lanes. If IDOT and the consultant agree we have enough room to add the bike lanes, it can be added to part of this project or reviewed internally as a Village.

Chairman Rees made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Osga to approve the recommendation of the Engineers, but ask them to consider the feasibility of appropriate bump-outs on Forest Avenue.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

Commissioner Gillis made the motion, seconded by Chairman Rees to ask the Engineers separately to look at the feasibility of installing striping for a bike lane on Chicago Avenue from Thatcher to Harlem on both sides. As part of this project or independently.

The vote was 6 to 0 in favor of approving the request. **The motion to approve the request passed.**

The Village will ask IDOT about the possibility of extending the time cars have to cross Harlem on Chicago Avenue.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

Jeff Loster, Secretary

Signature Line

John Rees, Chairman
Traffic & Safety Commission

Date: -----



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2017

TO: Traffic and Safety Commission

FROM: Jeff Loster, Village Engineer

SUBJECT: Intersection of Lake Street with Keystone Avenue – Pedestrian Safety

Issue: The topic of pedestrian safety at this intersection has come up several times in the past, most recently at the 7/19/17 Traffic and Safety Meeting. At that time, the Commission requested that Staff investigate options that could be utilized to increase the safety of pedestrians crossing Lake Street at this location. As Lake Street is under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) any measures implemented must be IDOT-approved.

Analysis: Shortly after the 7/19/17 meeting, Staff reached out to IDOT to summarize the existing conditions and to find out what options would be available to the Village, should the Commission and the Board ultimately approve them.

The **existing conditions** shared with IDOT are as follows:

1. There are curb bump-outs at this intersection, which shorten the crossing distance by about 16 feet total. This is consistent throughout most of the Lake Street corridor in River Forest.
2. The Village has previously inquired about crosswalk signage with a flashing beacon here but it does not meet IDOT's distance threshold as it is too close to Thatcher Ave, which is a fully signalized intersection (with its own signaled crosswalks). As a result, the Village installed crosswalk signage with flashing beacons a block east at Forest Ave.
3. There is no median at this location, only a double yellow centerline. As such, the Village cannot install a permanently-mounted "Stop Here for Pedestrians" sign within the pavement. In order to do so, a minimum 4' wide median would need to be present.

The **proposed options** shared with IDOT are as follows:

1. The Village could explore the feasibility of installing a 4' wide median here, either through striping or with curbing as a pedestrian refuge. If there is enough room for this, we could permanently mount a "Stop Here for Pedestrians" sign within the median.
2. The Village could install the standard crosswalk signage at this location, though it is unclear if the installation of advanced signage would be permitted.
3. The crosswalk striping could be enhanced to a continental/zebra/ladder style crosswalk.

It was also requested that any other options at the Village's disposal (that were not suggested by Village Staff) be brought to our attention so that a comprehensive review and conversation could take place.

The **IDOT response** to the 3 items proposed by Village Staff is as follows:

1. There is not sufficient roadway width at this location to install a 4' median (either with paint or through a curbed pedestrian refuge).
2. Pedestrian crossing and advanced signage can be installed at this location, but can only be done by IDOT. Before requesting this, the Village needs to re-stripe the existing crosswalks (or enhance them, per #3 below).
3. The crosswalk striping *can* be enhanced to “ladder” style crosswalks, if the Village chooses to do so. This work would be the responsibility of the Village.

Based on the response from IDOT, the only enhancements available to the Village are through crosswalk striping and pedestrian crossing signage. No in-pavement signage is permitted, nor is crosswalk signage with flashing beacons.

Should the Commission and Board approve the installation of this signage, Staff will have the crosswalks striped accordingly this year. Once the striping is completed, the signage request will be made to IDOT and they will install the signage as soon as their sign shop's schedule permits.

Recommendations:

At this time, the Commission should make a motion to recommend either maintaining the existing crosswalks or enhance them to “ladder” style crosswalks, as well as to install or not install crosswalk signage (including advanced signage) at the intersection of Lake St. and Keystone Ave.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2017

TO: Traffic and Safety Commission

FROM: Jeff Loster, Village Engineer

SUBJECT: Parking on the 1500-block of Ashland Avenue

Issue: A request was made at the 7/19/17 Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting to install a No Parking Zone on the east side of Ashland Avenue between North Avenue and LeMoyne Street, Monday through Saturday, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. Through the course of public discussion, it was recommended that the request be tabled and that a letter be written by Staff to the Loyola Medical Facility requesting that their Staff park within the Loyola property. A request was also made that Village Staff monitor the area between North Avenue and the Loyola driveway on Ashland Ave.

Analysis: On 8/1/17, Staff sent a letter to the Loyola Facility asking that they direct their staff to park within the Loyola property or at the St. Vincent property per the two parties' agreement. The letter was sent from Eric Palm, Village Administrator.

Subsequent to the letter being sent, Staff was contacted by Loyola personnel to discuss the matter. It was agreed that Loyola Staff would be directed to avoid parking on Ashland Avenue in the future.

For a two week period starting on 7/28/17, the River Forest Police Department monitored parking in the area between North Avenue and the Loyola driveway. The first few days saw multiple cars parked in this area. After the 8/1/17 letter was sent, however, the number of vehicles dropped significantly. The remaining days typically saw only a single vehicle in this area. There were occasions when two vehicles would be parked in this area, but other occasions when there would be no vehicles at all. Throughout the entire time this area was being monitored, none of the vehicles were registered to River Forest addresses.

No additional requests for parking restrictions have been made since the 7/19/17 Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting.

Recommendations:

At this time the communication with Loyola appears to be working as the number of vehicles in this area has dropped significantly. Should the Commission wish to table the issue further, no motion is required.

DRAFT OF PARKING SPACE CHANGE REQUEST

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Teresa McKenzie and I am an Internal Medicine physician who owns the property at 7605 ½ W. North Ave.

I am a resident of River forest and established my medical practice at this location on 5/1/2004.

During this time I have been fortunate to experience the expansion of business in town as well as my own growing practice, which is comprised of approximately 1200 patients. I have a business partner, Dr. Terrie Weir who has a practice of similar size.

With this success however has come a parking dilemma. More specifically, a large portion of our patients are elderly and a percentage of those have some form of mobility handicap. Because the 4 parking spaces in front of my building are typically occupied for the day by employees working at surrounding businesses, there is nowhere for these patients to safely park. Of note, Dr. Weir, our staff (3), and I park on side streets.

For this reason, I am requesting converting one space to become dedicated ADA-Accessible and to create a 2-hour parking limit on the other 3. These spots are on the south side of the street, and extend from 7603 to 7607 W. North Ave.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Teresa S. McKenzie, MD, FACP

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): 2 hour parking + 1 handicap spot in the
 4 parking spaces on south side North Ave by 7605 1/2
 and other businesses there

Name	Address	Date	Signature
Teresa McKenzie	1201 William St, RF	7-20-17	Teresa McKenzie
Jan DiMatteo	6126 W. Dakin Chgo	7-20-17	Jan DiMatteo
Erabi DIMATTEO	6126 W. DAKIN Chicago	7/20/17	Erabi Dimatteo
Kristin Nelson	400 N. Lasalle Dr. chgo	7-20-17	Kristin Nelson
Mae Leef	1201 William St. RF	7-20-17	Mae Leef
Janifer Stange	909 Hannah Ave. F.P.	07/20/2017	Janifer Stange
Casie Nicky	8461 Rivergrove Ave. Rivergrove	7/20/17	Casie Nicky
Karen Menoch	1909 N. Newa, Chicago	7/20/17	Karen Menoch
Mary J. Vent	2311 Buckingham W. Northbrook	7/20/12	Mary J. Vent
Gwen Palermini	5511 W. Melrose (Chgo)	7/25/17	Gwen Palermini
SALLY NACK	2508 COMBARD BERWYN	7-25-17	S. NACK
MARY JO VINCE	6957 W. Melrose - Chgo	7-25-17	Mary Jo Vince
Jannette Cordero	3419 N. New England ^{chgo}	7-25-17	Jannette Cordero
James T. Frank	6318 W. Grace St.	7-25-17	James T. Frank
SHEILA SEVERINO	2312 W. 72 ND CT - E.P.	7-25-17	Sheila Severino
Lynn Anderaman	919 Hannah Ave FP IL 601301	7-25-17	Lynn Anderaman
Diane L. Nelson	1145. Humphrey Ave Oak Park	7/27/17	Diane L. Nelson
Donna Budicak	1822 N. 74th Ave	7/27/17	Donna Budicak
Carley Greifelt	342 Ashland Ave R.F.	7/27/17	Carley Greifelt
Wmney Johnson	835 Circle Ave, Forest Park	7-27-17	Wmney Johnson

*Please note that by adding your information to the above petition, you are indicating your support of the requested action(s)

Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): 2 hour parking + 1 handicap spot in the 4 parking spaces on south side North Ave 7603-7607

Name	Address	Date	Signature
Janet Dudzinski	233 Gazebo Ln Lombard	7/27/2017	J. Dudzinski
Nancy BUETTNER	2707 N. 70 th CT, ELmwood PK	7/31/2017	Nancy S. Buettner
Mary Hackbarth	222 N Columbus # 2302 ^{Chicago} ₆₀₆₀₉	7/31/17	M. Hackbarth
MARTYNN TRUPPA	1535 PARK RIVER FOREST	8/1/17	M. Truppa
LINDA MARTINEC	465 S. MAIN ST ^{LOMBARD} _{IL 60148}	8/1/17	L. Martinec
Michael Paba	21300 Brush Lake Dr ^{IL} ₆₀₁₁₁	8-1-17	M. Paba
MARLENE KLEMP	10027 DRURY LN, WESTCHESTER	8-1-17	Marlene Klemm
KATHRYN LEEP	244 MARENGO, F.P. IL 60130	8-1-17	K. Leep
RENÉE KOCZNER	6919 W FURBER ST, CHGO	8-1-17	Renée Koczner
PAT ELK	519 Geneva Ave, Bellwood, IL	8/1/17	Pat Elk
Tommy Jackson	325 N Ridgeland, Oak Park, IL	8/1/17	Tommy Jackson
Karen Creedon	1136 Ferdinand #1 F.P. 60130	8-2-17	Karen Creedon
JULIE KUCZYNSKI	171 Ridgewood Overland 60546	8/02/2017	Julie Kuczynski
Thomas M Cogley	1930 N. 75 th Ct - Elmwood PK	8-03-2017	Thomas M Cogley
JOANN M COGLEY	1930 N. 75 th Ct - Elmwood PK	8-03-17	Joann M Cogley
Michael T. COGLEY	1930 N. 75 Ct - Elmwood PK	08-3-2017	Michael T. Cogley
James M Cogley	1930 N. 75 Ct - Elmwood PK	08-03-17	James M Cogley
RAYMOND NEKOLA	7614 SPRUCEWOOD - Woodridge	08-3-2017	Raymond Nekola
Mary Sam	440 Raintree Ct. (2B) Glen Ellyn	08-3-2017	Mary J. Sam
Marc Fini	3237 N Paris Ave Chicago	08-3-2017	Marc Fini

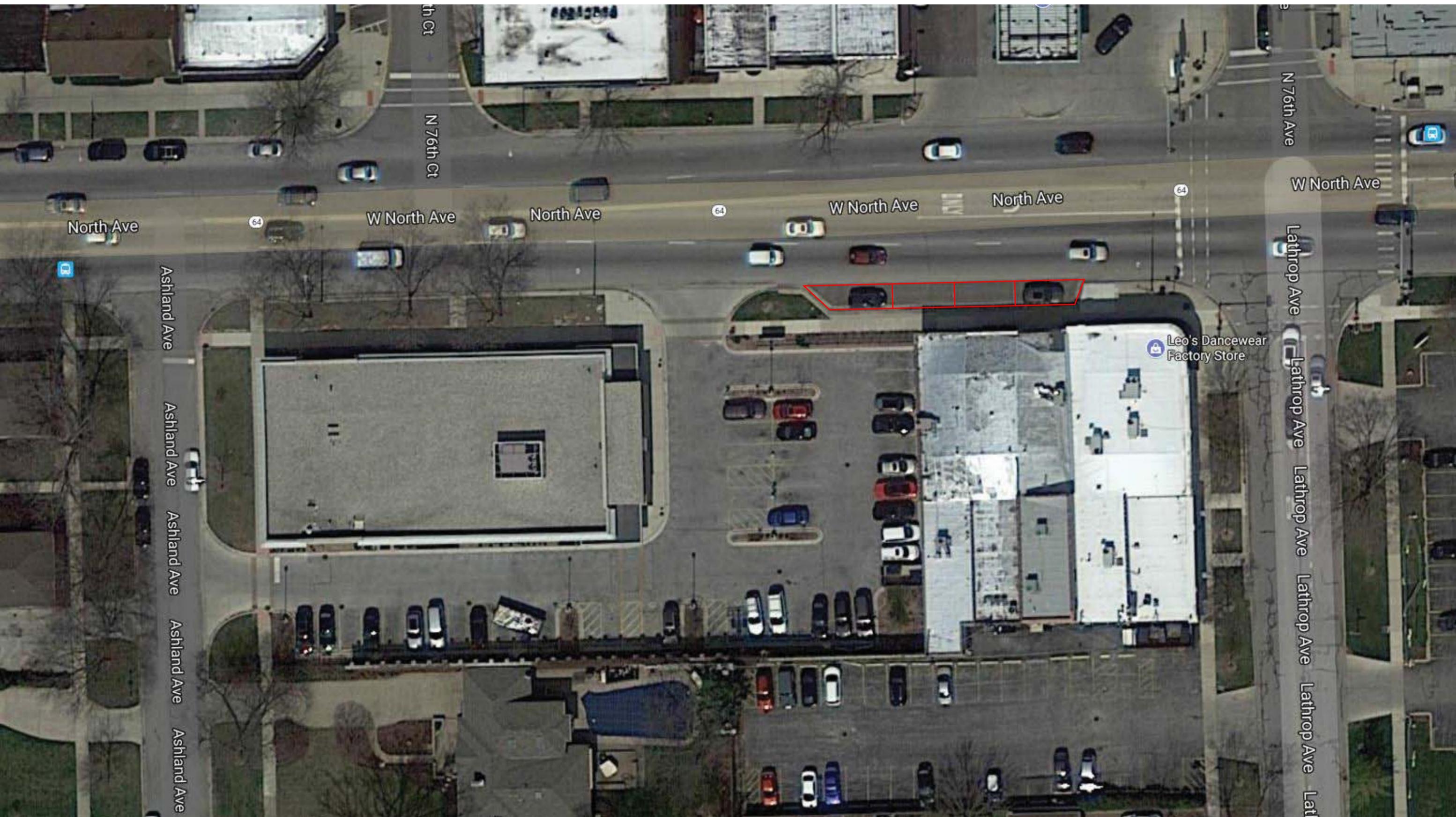
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Traffic and Safety Commission - Petition of Support

Requested Action(s): 2 hour parking + 1 handicap spot in the
4 parking spaces on south side North Ave 7603-7607

Name	Address	Date	Signature
Scott Posson	950 Kaplan Ave Forest Park	8-3-17	
Dori Kuzon	1142 Forest Ave River Park	8-3-17	
Matthew Mellure	512 Redondo Dr #302	8-3-17	
Carol Southern	403 S Harvey Ave Oak Park	8-3-17	
PATRICIA HARTY	1535 N. FOREST RIVER FOREST ⁶⁰³⁰²	8-10-17	
ROSEMARIE MACK	3030 N. 76TH AVE ELMWOOD PK	8-10-17	
Joe Stromer	520 Whelan St Lakewood	8/14/17	
Manza Fione	525 Forest Ave Oak Park	8-15-17	
TONY BERTUCA	2014 N. NEW CASTLE	8-15-17	
MARYANN PIKE	7336 Winthrop Way	8-15-17	
THERESE XANDREW	1039 PLEASANT ST	8-15-17	
BARBARA TREDER	8112 CHRISTIE AVE	8/15/17	
Sawgon Zair	2148 Elmwood	8/15/17	
Violeta Jay	1043 S. Clinton D.P	8-15-17	
R S Dudley	2344 Hainsworth N. Riv.	8-16-17	
Nicola Evans	417 LATHROP AVE 4th R.F.	8/16/17	
Anne Foyth	3305 Ernest St F.P	8-16-17	
Vinessa DiPinto	1709 76th Ct Elmwood Park IL	8-16-17	
MARY J. CARL	63 MARTIN CAMER RD ^{Riverside}	8-16-17	
Samantha Boyd	5655 S. Michigan Ave.	8-16-17	

*Please note that by adding your information to the above petition, you are indicating your support of the requested action(s)



North Ave

64

W North Ave

North Ave

64

W North Ave

North Ave

64

W North Ave

Ashland Ave

Ashland Ave

Ashland Ave

Ashland Ave

Ashland Ave

th Ct

N 76th Ct

N 76th Ave

Lathrop Ave

Lathrop Ave

Lathrop Ave

Lathrop Ave

Lathrop Ave

Lathrop Ave

Leo's Dancewear
Factory Store



Police Department Parking Survey
7600 Block of North Avenue

- Parking on this block was monitored for a period of 10 days
- Inspections occurred at 8:00 am and again at 3:00 pm
- Each time the area was inspected, there were at least 4 vehicles parked in the 4 designated spaces (on one occasion there were 5 vehicles parked in the 4 spaces during a morning inspection)
- Of the 10 days of monitoring, 9 of them involved the same vehicles present during the morning and afternoon inspections
- It was also noted that some vehicles were present multiple times throughout the 10 days

Based on the observation performed, it would appear that these spaces are used by area businesses staff. It would also appear that the spots are filled early in the morning and vehicles tend to stay parked throughout the majority of the day. There was very little turnover seen during the observation period.