



**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**98-262**

**SYNOPSIS –**

**AGENDA:**  
JUNE 22, 1998

The following traffic regulation changes have been reviewed by staff and are recommended for approval:

**SUBJECT:**  
TRAFFIC  
REGULATION  
CHANGES

1. Request for Mid-Block Signal—1600 Block of East Evergreen Avenue (Jackson Elementary School).
2. Request for Handicapped Parking Space—South Side of Lyon Street West of East Seventeenth Street.

**TYPE:**  
RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

N/A

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
HAROLD SMITH  
CITY ENGINEER

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Refer to Legal Department for preparation of ordinance revisions.**

**BACKGROUND —**

1. Staff initiated a review at the existing school crossing in the 1600 block of East Evergreen Avenue, which is on the designated school route map for Jackson Elementary School. A pedestrian walkway connects the school property with Evergreen Avenue, with this crosswalk located where the walkway intersects the street.

A school study taken on June 2, 1998, indicated that approximately 20 children crossed within this crosswalk during the afternoon dismissal hour, with traffic volumes of 410 vehicles during the same period. These volumes were compared to the criteria for school crossing control in the “Manual for School Crossing Controls,” as approved by the

Des Moines City Council and the Des Moines Independent School District. This manual indicates that if the traffic volumes exceed 250 vehicles through an established mid-block school crossing, then traffic signals are warranted.

Because a new elementary school is scheduled to be built on SE 22nd Street north of Park Avenue, some children who currently use this crosswalk to attend Jackson School may in the future attend the new school when it is opened. Staff requested a map from the Des Moines Schools delineating where new school boundaries are anticipated in order to determine what impact, if any, the new school will have on the number of students that use this crosswalk.

At their June 9, 1998 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved staff's recommendation that a mid-block school signal be installed in the 1600 block of East Evergreen Avenue for Jackson Elementary School. The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this installation into effect.

**SEC. 27-927.01. EVERGREEN AVENUE.**

**Evergreen Avenue, on the north side, at a point 865 feet east of East Indianola Avenue – school signal.**

2. The Traffic and Transportation Division was contacted by Ms. Martha Hindman, 1641 Lyon Street, in April of this year regarding a need for the installation of permanent handicapped parking space on the south side of Lyon Street in front of her residence. Ms. Hindman's daughter, Kaye, suffers from a permanent disability that severely limits her mobility. Because parking is allowed on this side of the street, the accessible school bus for Ms. Hindman's daughter is unable to pull partially into her driveway in a manner that allows her daughter to board when cars are parked in this area.

This Office installed a temporary handicapped parking area (and informed Mr. Fred Wegner, Chair of the City of Des Moines Access Advisory Committee regarding this matter and of the temporary installation), within several days of the initial request from Ms. Hindman. The temporary nature of this installation was subject to Ms. Hindman furnishing this office with a statement from her doctor stating that this need was permanent in nature. This Office has received documentation from Dr. Stuart L. Weinstein, with the Department of

Orthopaedic Surgery, Division of Pediatric Orthopaedic and Spinal Deformity at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, verifying the permanent nature of this disability. The following modification to the Municipal Code will alter the status of this handicapped parking area to a permanent installation.

**SEC. 27-2419. LYON STREET—EAST FIFTH STREET TO EAST THIRTIETH STREET.**

**Lyon Street, on the south side, from a point 225 feet west of East Seventeenth Street to a point 30 feet west thereof, is designated a handicapped parking space and is subject to the same prohibitions as is found in Section 27-707(a) of this code.**