

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

98-525

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

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

NOVEMBER 16, 1998

1. Request for Corner Clearance No Parking Restriction-North Side of Crocker Street East of Forty-first Street.

SUBJECT:

2. Request for Four-Way Stop-Sixth Avenue and Aurora Avenue.

TRAFFIC REGULATION
CHANGES

3. Request for Two-Sided Parking Restriction-Southeast Tenth between Rose and Watrous Avenues.

TYPE:

FISCAL IMPACT -

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

N/A

SUBMITTED BY:

RECOMMENDATION -

HAROLD SMITH
CITY ENGINEER

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

1. The Traffic and Transportation Division received a request from a resident regarding visibility and turning difficulties at the intersection of Crocker Street at Forty-first Street.

The complaint is in regard to westbound Crocker Street traffic having difficulty making the northbound turn. Currently, vehicles can legally park on the north side of Crocker Street near Forty-first Street. This investigation shows that the presence of a large hill obstructs the view of this movement. Additionally, southbound Forty-first

Street traffic has a limited view of westbound Crocker Street traffic due to the parked cars on Crocker Street and the hill in the northeast corner.

The following ordinance changes will implement a 75-foot section of No Parking Any Time on the north side of Crocker Street, immediately east of Forty-first Street in order to ensure adequate visibility for turning vehicles.

SEC. 27-2099. CROCKER STREET-THIRTY-FIRST STREET TO FORTY-THIRD STREET.

Crocker Street, on the north side, from Forty-first Street to a point 75 feet east thereof, no parking any time.

2. On August 3, 1998, City Council received a request and petition from Dennis Frisk, 4147 - 11th Street, and area residents for a four-way stop at the intersection of Sixth and Aurora Avenues. By Roll Call No. 98-2479, this item was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee for review and recommendation.

At the September 15, 1998 Traffic Safety Committee meeting, staff presented this item. Because it was felt that the traffic counts taken in August might not be accurate since Morningstar Drive was closed for bridge construction over I-35/80, the Committee deferred action on this item until Morningstar Drive was reopened to traffic and additional counts could be taken.

Morningstar Drive was reopened to traffic in early October 1998. Staff conducted additional traffic counts at the intersection of Sixth and Aurora Avenues between October 12 and October 15, 1998. These counts indicate traffic volumes on Sixth Avenue are 5,660 vehicles per day (veh/day) and volumes on Aurora Avenue are 1,650 veh/day. During the Morningstar closure, these counts were 6,525 veh/day and 2,170 veh/day, respectively.

In addition, staff has reviewed the sight distance for eastbound traffic on Aurora Avenue looking south along Sixth Avenue. There is approximately 200 feet of clear sight distance in this direction without visibility being blocked by a retaining wall. The minimum sight distance recommended by AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) "Policy on

Geometric Design for Streets and Highways" for a 30 mph speed limit (35 mph design speed) is 350 feet.

Although the accident history has been favorable at this location, staff recommends that a four-way stop be installed for several reasons. The restricted sight distance in the southwest quadrant of the intersection is below the minimum standards as established by AASHTO. It would be a considerable expense to relocate the retaining wall in order to increase this sight distance. Also, both of these streets are considered "collector" type roadways with moderate traffic volumes.

Staff recommends that a four-way stop be installed at the intersection of Sixth and Aurora Avenues. Because this intersection is located along the corporation boundary between Des Moines and an unincorporated part of Polk County, their concurrence will be necessary to allow this installation. At their November 10, 1998 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved staff's recommendation.

The following revisions to the Municipal Code are necessary to place this four-way stop into effect:

SEC. 27-319.03. FOUR-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS-LOCATIONS DESIGNATED.

(1a) Aurora Avenue and Sixth Avenue.

3. On October 26, 1998, City Council received a neighborhood petition asking that parking be prohibited on both sides of Southeast Tenth Street between Rose and Watrous Avenues. Concern was expressed that visibility is limited at the intersection of Southeast Tenth and Rose for vehicles entering the intersection, and that the route is used by buses which must turn at this intersection as well. By Roll Call No. 98-3353, this item was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee for review and recommendation.

Southeast Tenth Street is a 25-foot-wide residential street with parking currently allowed on the east side of the street from Watrous Avenue north to Thornton Avenue.

Staff has reviewed the request, which was signed by

approximately 100 residents. The affected area of Southeast Tenth Street, between Rose and Watrous, has five directly affected residents. Two of these, or 40 percent, signed the petition. In reviewing the accident history at this intersection, there have been three reported accidents at Southeast Tenth and Rose in the past six-year period.

The City's parking policy for residential streets similar to Southeast Tenth Street is that if a consensus of the directly affected residents (at least 75 percent) is in favor of the restriction, staff will recommend approval. Since this section of Southeast Tenth only has 40 percent in favor, we do not recommend that the two-sided parking restriction be implemented. In order to increase the sight distance at the intersection of Southeast Tenth and Rose, staff recommends that a "corner clearance" parking restriction be installed, with parking prohibited on the east side of Southeast Tenth Street for a distance of 50 feet north and south of Rose Avenue.

Staff recommends that the request for a two-sided parking restriction on Southeast Tenth Street between Rose and Watrous Avenues be denied, but that parking be prohibited on the east side of Southeast Tenth Street for a distance of 50 feet north and south of Rose Avenue. Also, the existing 50-foot corner clearance parking restriction on the east side of Southeast Tenth Street north of Watrous should be extended to 75 feet. At their November 10, 1998 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved staff's recommendation.

The following revision to the Municipal Code is necessary to place this corner clearance into effect:

**SEC. 27-1686. SOUTHEAST TENTH STREET-
EAST VINE STREET TO EAST PHILIP STREET.**

Southeast Tenth Street, on the east side, from a point 50 feet south of Rose Avenue to a point 50 feet north of Rose Avenue, no parking any time.

Southeast Tenth Street, on the east side, from East Watrous Avenue to a point ~~50~~ 75 feet north thereof, no parking any time.

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