

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

**99-381**

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

**AGENDA:**

AUGUST 23, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

TRAFFIC  
REGULATION  
CHANGES

**TYPE:**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

**SYNOPSIS -**

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

1. Corner Clearance Parking Restriction-west Side of SW 5th Street; north and south of Murphy Street.
2. Parking Restriction Changes Required by School Closings/Relocations.
3. Convert Capitol Avenue from East 15th Street to East 16th Street to two-way operation.
4. Allow Parking on East 38th Street between Hubbell Avenue and Douglas Avenue.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Receive, file and refer to Legal Department for proper legislation.**

**BACKGROUND -**

1. After reviewing citizen concerns regarding visibility at the intersection of SW 5th Street and Murphy Street, the Traffic and Transportation Division recommends installing a 50-foot no parking any time corner clearance at this location. This corner clearance would eliminate the tendency of cars to park so close to the intersection that they obstruct the view of oncoming traffic. The following change to the Municipal Code

will place this corner clearance into effect:

**SEC. 27-1614. SOUTHWEST FIFTH STREET-VINE STREET TO ARMY POST ROAD.**

Southwest Fifth Street, on the west side, from a point 50 feet south of Murphy Street to a point 50 feet north of Murphy Street, no parking any time.

2. The Des Moines Public School District closed three elementary schools last Spring and moved their operations to two other facilities. The three schools that closed were Rice Elementary, 3001 Beaver Avenue; Lucas Elementary, 1535 Capitol Avenue; and Brooks Elementary, 2124 Des Moines Street. Samuelson School, located at 3929 Bel-Aire Road and Scavo School located at 1000 Porter Avenue will temporarily replace these schools. Some activities will be relocated to the Central Campus Facility at 1800 Grand Avenue.

City and school district staff members are reviewing the traffic-related issues primarily at the new school locations so that any changes can be implemented prior to the beginning of the school year. The changes include the designation of a Bus Loading Zone along the north side of Bel-Aire Road and corner clearance no parking areas on 40th Street and on Lindlavista Way (Samuelson School). No changes are necessary at Scavo School. Later this Fall, staff plans to review the streets around the closed school sites to determine if any traffic modifications should occur at these locations.

At their August 10, 1999 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff's recommendations regarding traffic changes at these school locations. The following changes to the Municipal Code will place these changes into effect:

**SEC. 27-1885. FORTIETH STREET-GRAND AVENUE TO CRESTMOOR DRIVE.**

Fortieth Street, on the east side, from Bel-Aire Road to a point 50 feet south thereof, no parking any time.

**SEC. 27-1881. THIRTY-NINTH STREET-GRAND AVENUE TO CRESTMOOR PLACE.**

Thirty-ninth Street, on the west side, from Lindlavista Way to

Crestmoor Place, passenger loading and unloading.

SEC. 27-1981. BEL-AIRE ROAD-THIRTIETH STREET TO DEAD END WEST OF FIFTY-FIRST STREET.

Bel-Aire Road, on the north side, from Fortieth Street to a point 490 feet east thereof, no parking 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, bus loading and unloading.

SEC. 27-2384. LINDLAVISTA WAY-LYNDAL DRIVE TO DEAD END WEST OF THIRTY-EIGHTH PLACE.

Lindlavista Way, on the north side, from Thirty-ninth Street to a point 50 feet east thereof, no parking any time.

3. In 1988, following a request by Lucas Elementary School representatives, Capitol Avenue was converted to a one-way, eastbound street. This was done to alleviate congestion during school times. With the closure of Lucas School, members of the Capitol East Neighborhood Association have requested that Capitol Avenue revert back to a two-way operation.

Staff notified all of the residents along this street, and they support this change. At their August 10, 1999 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to revert Capitol Avenue to a two-way operation between East 15th Street and East 16th Street. The following change to the Municipal Code will affect the change:

SEC. 27-1116. CAPITOL AVENUE.

Capitol Avenue, from East Fifteenth Street to East Sixteenth Street, eastbound.

4. At the City Council meeting on July 26, 1999, a request was received from T.J. Nelson, 3761 East Douglas Avenue, to allow parking on the west side of East 38th Street north of Douglas Avenue. By Roll Call Number 99-2336, this item was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee for review and approval.

In further discussions with Mr. Nelson, it was indicated that he would like to park vehicles in this area of East 38th Street on evenings and weekends, because the extra pavement width on this part of East 38th provides a safer place to park. Mr. Nelson's residence is located on the southwest corner of the

East 38th Street and Douglas Avenue intersection, and parking is available on East 38th Street alongside his house. The street is narrower in this area, and he indicated that on two occasions his parked vehicles have been hit by passing motorists.

Douglas Elementary School is located on the east side of East 38th Street north of Douglas Avenue, and the existing restrictions are in place primarily to prohibit parking during school times, which would increase congestion in this area.

Staff has reviewed this request, and concurs that parking could be allowed on the west side of East 38th Street in this area, except between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., school days. It is also proposed that a 50-foot "corner clearance" parking restriction be retained north of Douglas, and that an 85-foot restriction be retained south of Hubbell Avenue, in order to provide safe and efficient traffic flow at the adjacent intersections.

At their August 10, 1999 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee concurred with staff's recommendation that parking be allowed on the west side of East 38th Street, except between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., school days, from a point 50 feet north of Douglas to a point 85 feet south of Hubbell Ave. The following revisions to the Municipal Code will place these changes into effect:

**SEC. 27-1877. EAST THIRTY-EIGHTH STREET-EAST UNIVERSITY AVENUE TO NORTH CITY LIMITS.**

East Thirty-eighth Street, on the west side, from Avenue Frederick M. Hubbell to a point 85 feet south thereof, no parking any time.

East Thirty-eighth Street, on the west side, from a point 50 feet north of East Douglas Avenue to a point 85 feet south of Avenue Frederick M. Hubbell, no parking any time 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., school days.

East Thirty-eighth Street, on the west side, from Douglas Avenue to a point 50 feet north thereof, no parking any time.

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