



ALDERPERSON AGENDA ITEM MEMO

To: Transportation Affairs Committee

From: 8th District Ald. Jason Wilke, Common Council President

Date: 9-11-24

Subject: Eliminate parking restrictions on the following streets adjacent to West High School to allow student/visitor parking in the public right of way: 113th St, 114th St, 115th St, 116th St., and Center St.

A. Background/Rationale

West High School has always had limited parking spaces available for students, with spots restricted to seniors only. This year, the school implemented a system of assigned, reserved parking spots, which has displaced more students and visiting faculty to street parking. The new numbering system for reserved senior spots has further reduced availability since these spaces can only be used by the assigned senior. If the senior does not park on a given day, the spot remains empty rather than being available to others. More parking needs to be made available on the streets immediately adjacent to the high school to alleviate this issue.

B. Key Issues for Consideration

The public right of way is meant for everyone. Street parking is a standard solution when additional parking lot construction isn't feasible due to space constraints. However, pushing parking to the next block south is unfair to neighbors who didn't purchase property adjacent to a school, and it's neither fair nor safe for students to unnecessarily walk extra blocks in traffic or inclement weather.

Since many streets on the west side lack sidewalks, residents often forget that they don't own the property up to the curb. They need to be reminded that the right of way is public property, and students should be allowed to use it to safely exit their parked cars and walk to school.

C. Fiscal Impact

None

D. Requested Action

Modify the existing street parking ordinance to redact the parking restrictions on the above-mentioned streets. At minimum start a 90-day trial immediately.

E. Attachments

See attached map of the existing parking restriction near West High School for reference.