



# CITY OF GARDNER POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 Main Street  
Gardner, Massachusetts 01440

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June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

From: James Trifiro, Deputy Chief of Police

To: James Johnson – Public Safety Committee  
Chris Coughlin – City Engineer  
Dane Arnold – Public Works Director  
Jennifer Dymek – Civil Enforcement  
Trevor Beauregard – Community Development Director

Subject: Traffic Commission Meeting/Minutes from June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

1. Members in attendance:

1. James Trifiro
2. James Johnson
3. Dane Arnold
4. Jennifer Dymek
5. Trevor Beauregard

2. Traffic Commission Meeting called to order at 9:10AM.

3. Old Business:

- a. An update was supplied to the Traffic Commission Members regarding a citizen complaint/parking concerns on Ash Street (area of #132). After a survey of the area was conducted it was confirmed that a substantial section of Ash Street was under 28 feet in specification (reference City Code 567-8) which could cause a safety concern connected with roadside parking. As a result of the area analysis it was determined that the Traffic Commission would recommend to the Public Safety Committee the following City Code amendment.
  - i. 600-24/Parking prohibited on certain street – west side of Ash Street starting at the southerly property line of address #164/migrating in a southerly direction terminating at the intersections of West and Monadnock Street's.
- b. Consideration regarding Code Red broadcasts were requested for more than one transmission when encompassing a parking ban involving multiple days. This information was forwarded to Mayor Hawke and Chief Braks.



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- c. Parking in the vicinity of 16 West Broadway was reported to be problematic to local traffic. This area had been directed for extra police patrols/target of parking enforcement and surveyed by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold. Over the course of a three month time span no violations were observed and no further concerns were reported.
  - d. Parking in the vicinity of South Main Street and Pearson Boulevard were reported to be problematic to local traffic. This area had been directed for extra police patrols/target of parking enforcement and surveyed by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold. Over the course of a three month time span no violations were observed and no further concerns were reported.
  - e. A Stop Sign request was received for the intersection of Charles @ Prospect Street's. A 5 year historical/accident statistical analysis was retrieved for this area by Deputy Chief Trifiro which revealed a negative finding in reportable crash data. This area was also surveyed by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold and no further concerns were reported. Traffic Commission Members in discussion did not believe this area warranted any type of traffic control device.
4. At 9:15AM a motion to accept Old Business was made by Dane Arnold, seconded by James Johnson and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.
5. New Business:
- a. A Stop Sign request was received for the intersection of Fieldstone @ Leo Drive's. A 5 year historical/accident statistical analysis was retrieved for this area by Deputy Chief Trifiro which revealed a negative finding in reportable crash data. Traffic Commission Members in discussion did not believe this area warranted any type of traffic control device at this time.
  - b. A round table discussion was engaged regarding road girder construction in the area of Betty Spring Road and in the area of Eaton Street. Dane Arnold related this activity was already slated for action (tentative mid July 2019) and would be working with Chris Coughlin on these projects.
  - c. A round table discussion was engaged regarding altering the Regan Street traffic pattern from two direction travel lanes to a one way travel design. Traffic Commission Members in discussion agreed to address traffic congestion reported to be in the area starting with a roadway survey conducted by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold. This item for further discussion at the next quarterly Traffic Commission Meeting.
  - d. A round table discussion was engaged to address long term/overtime parking concerns on Knowlton Street between Connors and Nichols Street's. In addition to these concerns it was discovered that according to City Code 600-24 (Parking prohibited on certain streets) Knowlton Street was listed for no parking on the north side in its entire length, but motor vehicles had been



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parking at the side of the roadway between Connors and Nichols Street's due to the fact parking spots were outlined in the roadway. After extensive conversation Traffic Commission Members agreed the most practical way to address overtime parking concerns were through the use of parking meters. At that time Dane Arnold made a motion to recommend amending City Code 600-24 and allow parking on the north side of Knowlton Street (between Connor's and Nichols Street's) and post parking meters on both sides of the roadway (10 spots) between Connor's and Nichols Street's. Included in this motion Dane Arnold also suggested that parking meters should be posted on the west side of Connors Street (10 spots) starting at the intersection of Knowlton and Connors Street leading to the vicinity of the Binall House (238 feet). This motion was seconded by James Johnson and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor. As a result of this discussion/motion the Traffic Commission will be recommending to the Public Safety Committee the following City Code amendment's:

- i. 600-24/Parking prohibited on certain street – repeal no parking north side of Knowlton Street entire length and amend to no parking north side between Pleasant and Connors Street's.
  - ii. 600-18/Three-hour parking meters – north side (6 spots) and south side (4 spots) of Knowlton Street between Nichols and Connors Street's
  - iii. 600-18/Three-hour parking meters – West side of Connors Street starting at the Knowlton Street intersection and traveling in a northerly direction for a distance of 238 feet (10 spots).
- e. A round table discussion was engaged regarding the up-coming downtown water main project. This project is slated to begin at the intersection of Willow @ Main Street's and travel in a northerly direction stopping in the vicinity of Cottage Street. Dane Arnold related that as long the project is approved for funding and after bidding (tentatively June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019) the best case scenario for starting the project would be sometime late July 2019.
  - f. James Johnson related he received concerns regarding parking complaints on Nutting Street. Traffic Commission Members in discussion agreed to address parking concerns in the area starting with a roadway survey conducted by Deputy Chief Trifiro and Dane Arnold. This item to be addressed at the next quarterly Traffic Commission Meeting.
  - g. A round table discussion was engaged by Deputy Chief Trifiro regarding the billet structure of the Traffic Commission. In a review of the current City Code (275-1) the membership of the Civil Enforcement Director was not included in the code description. The individual serving as the Cities Civil Enforcement Director had been attending Traffic Commission Meetings for several years and it was always inferred that they were an official member of the commission. All members in attendance agreed that the Civil Enforcement Director plays a pivotal role in



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decision making within the Traffic Commission's Duties, responsibilities and accountabilities. Deputy Chief Trifiro made a motion to recommend amending City Code 275-1 and insert the Civil Enforcement Directors position into the ordinance. This motion was seconded by Trevor Beauregard and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor. As a result of this discussion/motion the Traffic Commission will be recommending to the Public Safety Committee the following City Code amendment:

- i. 275-1/Commission established; member – insert Civil Enforcement Director as member.

### 6. Intersection concerns/update:

- a. Timpany Crossroads/Route 2A Intersection:
  - i. Dane Arnold reports that weather permitting, road paving and line marking should be finished up no later than mid-June.
- b. Timpany Boulevard/West Broadway Traffic Lights:
  - i. Upgrade Project in motion/tentative to begin Spring 2020.
- c. Temple Street:
  - i. Previous concerns of parking violations in the vicinity of Hospital Hill Road. This area is clearly marked for No Parking and is a target of traffic enforcement. The P.D. will continue to monitor this area and historical/accident statistical data show negative results of any recent traffic accidents.

### 7. Updates/Target Areas of Concern:

- a. Speeding Complaints have been received in the following general vicinities and have been target to P.D. traffic enforcement assignments/radar trailer notification:
  - i. South Gardner Center
  - ii. East Broadway
  - iii. Pearl Street
  - iv. Green Street (Henry Heywood Hospital)
  - v. Prospect Street @ Rouville Avenue
  - vi. Acadia Road
  - vii. Sand Street
  - viii. Betty Spring Road
  - ix. Prospect Street
  - x. Sherman Street (Crosswalk Violations)

### 8. Roadway Concerns/Updates:



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- a. Betty Spring @ Foster Court:
    - i. Radar Enforcement Signs installed/posted and mobile radar unit display board/foundations have been instituted in the area.
  - b. Crosswalk Violations @ 50 Pine Street (Heywood Wakefield Commons):
    - i. Extensive P.D. presence/enforcement – resulted in meeting with local resident’s and statement made by the President of the Commons Resident’s Advisory Board that the occupants “feel safer” when walking in the area as a result of the Traffic Commission’s attention and quick P.D. response.
  - c. Main Street Crosswalk (vicinity of Hannaford’s):
    - i. Continuous zone of concern due to reported limited visibility on pedestrians transiting in local area. Dane Arnold related that the design of this crosswalk along with adjacent traffic island is target for redesign and reconstruction tentatively in the spring of 2020.
  - d. Downtown Intersection: Parker @ Main @ Central @ Vernon Street’s
    - i. Historical/accident statistical data was retrieved for this area by Deputy Chief Trifiro which revealed a negative finding in any type of uptick in reportable crash data. Traffic Commission Members in discussion did not believe this area warranted any concerns to be addressed at this time.
9. Conclusion:
- a. At 10:28AM Dane Arnold made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Deputy Chief Trifiro and all members in attendance were in unanimous favor.
  - b. Next Traffic Committee Meeting Schedule: TBD