



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEVEN NIGHTS PER WEEK “RESIDENT PARKING ONLY” POLICY IN SOUTH BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** Over the last several years, the parking crisis in South Boston has become increasingly unsustainable. In 2023, a Boston Transportation Department (BTD) study on parking in South Boston indicated there were 28,900 active resident parking permits and only 10,600 on-street parking spaces. Although an audit of South Boston residential parking permits was subsequently conducted, and thousands of permits revoked, concerns remain for residents on enforcement and a policy of automatic resident parking permit renewals that continued since the pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS:** South Boston continues to absorb a significant number of Article 80, large and small, multifamily development projects. While a number of projects have gone through a thorough community process and garnered support of neighbors and abutters, nearby civic associations, and the local elected officials in the midst of a housing crisis - developers have reported being stalled with requests to cut already agreed upon parking ratios, and more closely adhere to BTD’s recommended parking guidelines of 0.5 spots per unit over local zoning regulations; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents continue to call attention to quality of life issues and having to consistently search for parking for a considerable period of time, while also expressing concerns regarding sufficient parking on-site for new Article 80 development, and questioning the ability for the BTD to restrict residential parking permits for new rental developments to prevent an overflow of street parking; *and*
- WHEREAS:** South Boston residents consistently report a large number of out-of-state plates and cars lacking a resident parking permit throughout the community, even during the nights of “Resident Parking Only”- Monday to Thursday 6pm-10am. With the neighborhood having become a destination for many young people on the weekend, this dynamic increases significantly - with many visitors parking for several days beginning Friday morning at 10am through Monday evenings at 6pm; *and*
- WHEREAS:** At the very time this influx of non-resident vehicles occurs each weekend, there are no “Resident Parking Only” restrictions and BTD enforcement is also scaled back. As a result, residents have reported increased quality of life and public safety issues - such as illegal parking in handicap spots, crosswalks, MBTA bus stops, blocking driveways and fire hydrants, and double-parking along Broadway; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Due to the unprecedented growth that South Boston has experienced over the last

two decades, future development proposals on the horizon, and an imbalance of parking stickers that are issued compared to parking spots available, the current parking policy needs to adapt to provide relief for residents, while also including attention to caregiver passes and visitor zones; *and*

WHEREAS: With neighborhoods in similar proximity to Downtown Boston having stricter residential parking regulations, it is no longer tenable for the absence of an updated seven nights per week “Resident Parking Only” policy for those areas of South Boston who currently do not have one, or the enforcement it requires in the community. It is necessary to protect the tax-paying residents of South Boston from both the unsustainable parking crisis and the aforementioned quality of life issues that occur every weekend, including for our seniors and persons with disabilities; *and*

WHEREAS: On December 11th, 2024, both BTM and the Boston Planning Department conducted a virtual meeting with the South Boston Chamber of Commerce and small businesses regarding the South Boston Transportation Plan. At that time, BTM and the Planning Department discussed both parking restrictions along Broadway, as well as the plan to convert the neighborhood of South Boston to “Resident Parking Only” for 7 nights per week in those areas that currently lacked overnight parking restrictions; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the implementation of a seven night “Resident Parking Only” policy in South Boston. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, Boston Planning Department, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: April 30, 2025