

COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy No. 19
General Subject: Public Safety
Specific Subject: Residential Permit Exceptions to Parking Ordinances
Date Approved: March 3, 1980
Date Amended: January 19, 2009

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of the resident exception permit and to avoid its misuse or overuse.

RATIONALE

The intent of the ordinance covering this subject is to protect residential areas, primarily single-family areas, from inundation of commuter or business parking to the extent that the residents are precluded from parking on the residential street in front of their houses. This extreme saturation is considered unreasonable and not in the best interests of the community. The overuse of this feature, can cause unreasonable hardships on conflicting interests within the community and, therefore, not be in the best interests of the community.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Residential permits are intended for Park Ridge registered vehicles whose owners live on the street in question. It is not intended to segregate owners, employees, customers or clients in the business areas.
2. Residential permits are not to be considered for exemption to traffic safety ordinances. (Examples include parking restrictions on arterial or collector streets, snow ordinances, parking in front of fire hydrants, etc.) They are likewise not to be considered for special exemption in areas where parking turnover is paramount, in the area of parking meters and coin boxes.
3. Residential permits will be considered in segments of entire blocks, blocks up to an alley, or half-blocks where an alley exists at half-block.
4. Residential permits will be considered when 50% or more of the available spaces on the block (or segment of block as described above) are typically utilized on a regular daily basis.
5. Residential permits will be considered when 25% or more of the vehicles typically parked on a regular daily basis are not vehicles registered to that block.
6. Residential permits will not be considered on any block (or portion thereof as described above) when either side of the street is used or zoned as anything other than residential.

7. Permits will be issued only to residents whose dwelling units or driveways abut the street in question.
8. Before resident permit parking is approved, there must be a reasonable alternative to relocate displaced vehicles, so that the problem is not moved from block to block.
9. Residential permit parking will not be issued in areas adjacent to schools, parks or churches where parking is of a temporary nature and used primarily by Park Ridge residents.

It should be noted that other considerations, unspecified at this time, may outweigh the desirability of the residents' permit exemption feature, and these guidelines are nothing more – they are not mandatory but formulated to indicate general intent.

PROCEDURE

Staff will respond to informal requests by providing general information on whether the request would meet the requirements of the guidelines.

1. All resident parking request should be placed in writing.
2. The Public Works Director and City Engineer shall review all requests.
3. Staff will informally survey the area to determine if 50% or more of the available spaces are being utilized and that 25% or more of these vehicles are not registered to that block.
4. If these criteria are met, staff will distribute a survey to residents abutting the area.
5. If 75% of the property owners are in favor of the proposed parking restrictions, staff shall make recommendations to the Public works Committee for further action.
6. Decisions may be appealed to the Public Works Committee.