

Date: April 4, 2016
To: Public Safety Committee
Subject: Letter of Support for file 151802, a substitute ordinance relating to residential daytime parking privileges in commuter parking impacted areas

Thank you for considering the substitute ordinance that will end an abuse of Residential Preferred Parking (RPP) permits.

My spouse (a UWM professor) and I have owned and lived in our duplex on E Hackett for more than 20 years. Like many other homeowners in our neighborhood, we have no driveway or garage and rely on street-parking, which is limited due to the proximity of the UWM campus. Without RPP, we would not be able to continue living in our duplex because of the parking congestion occasioned by the expansion of UWM. If we were to move, our home would become another rental with an off-site landlord, which has been a trend and a problem for the UWM neighborhood.

We were greatly relieved when RPP was first introduced some years ago, because it enabled us to continue living in our home and in this neighborhood that we love.

In the past year or two, however, we've seen more and more students who reside west of the UWM campus (by Oakland Ave) using RPP permits to "commute" about one mile from their eligible residences and to park in RPP spots east of campus. I gather that they do this so that they do not have to walk as far to classes on the east side of campus. Many of their vehicles display Daytime Residential Non-Conforming Use Parking Permits that identify the 1700 block of E Newport (west of Oakland Ave) as their qualifying residence.

The RPP ordinance is meant to enable residents to park adjacent to their eligible homes. Unfortunately, the current version of the ordinance allows permit holders to drive from one side of the RPP zone and park on the other side (to commute, for example, from west of Oakland and to park east of Downer for the day). This short commute increases traffic congestion around the UWM campus and depletes scarce off-street parking needed by eligible residents.

Alderman Kovac's substitute ordinance eliminates this abuse of the residential parking privilege by identifying the permit holder's eligible block for parking enforcement. This change restores the benefit of the RPP for residents who simply wish to park close to home.

Sincerely,

Erik A. Thelen

Copied, with thanks, to Alderman Kovac