



Department of Public Works
Administration

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.
Commissioner Department of Public Works

Laura Daniels
Operations Division Director

October 11, 2020

To: Honorable Members of the Common Council

Subject: Common Council File #200638 Reinstatement of Night Parking Regulations

Dear Honorable Members of the Common Council,

I am writing in regards to Common Council File #200638 to reinstate the Night Parking Regulations, 101-27 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, which had been temporarily suspended by Mayoral Proclamation on March 19, 2020 and unanimously ratified by the Common Council on March 24, 2020. This action was a part of a broader action that also suspended metered and non-metered timed parking regulations and provided residents the ability to maximize the use of on-street parking without a permit and without having to move their vehicles during the night time hours to comply with alternate side regulations. While this action was an effort to be sensitive to the uncertainties we were all experiencing at the onset of the COVID19 health emergency it was considered a temporary action. As the public became more adept with following CDC and local Health Department guidance, businesses began to reopen and travel activity increased making it necessary to start re-enforcing timed parking regulations to manage access to on-street parking. In June and July, through a Mayoral Proclamation that was ratified by the Common Council, DPW was given authority to begin re-enforcing the metered and non-metered timed parking regulations. During this same time frame, we also began discussing the need to reinstate the night parking regulations in the fall so that DPW would be able to provide effective leaf collection and snow and ice operations. The City's night parking regulations have been in place since 1951. Fall and winter operations (equipment, staffing & budget) have been established with night parking regulations being a critical component for the successful delivery of those operations. These long time established night parking regulations also provide consistent management of the use of city streets for those residents who don't have adequate off-street parking and allows us to identify abandoned vehicles. The core regulations that fall under the City's **Night Parking Regulation** are summarized below along with the resulting impacts if they continue to be suspended.

- **Alternate side parking MCO 101-27-3**

Under this ordinance vehicles are required to park on the odd numbered address side of the street on the odd numbered dates (prior to midnight) and on the even numbered address side of the street on even numbered calendar dates (prior to midnight). The requirement is enforced between the hours of 2am and 6am or between the hours of 10pm and 6am during a snow emergency, except on those streets posted as parking



permitted on one side only or determined to be exception streets. The objective of alternate side parking is to provide open access to the curb for municipal services such as street sweeping, leaf collections and snow removal. Additionally, requiring vehicles to move nightly identifies abandoned, or stolen or misuse of street parking by commercial enterprises. Per our records 460 vehicles were identified as stolen in 2019, 208 of which were identified during the overnight hours. A continued suspension of this regulation would significantly reduce our ability to provide these services.

- **Permit required MCO 101-27-2**

This ordinance requires a City of Milwaukee permit to park on the street between the hours of 2am and 6am or between the hours of 10pm and 6am during a snow emergency. The night parking permit regulation helps encourage the use of available off-street parking and improves access to on-street parking spaces for those who don't have off-street parking options. The more cars that utilize street parking as a matter of convenience, the more congested on-street parking becomes reducing street parking availability for those that need it, and importantly, as close to their residence as possible. The parking permit program also provides us with an extensive contact list that we use to communicate changes to the parking regulations when we declare snow emergencies. This helps improve compliance and minimize citations issued. Night parking permits are \$55 annually, \$20 per trimester (4month period).

- **Ineligible vehicles MCO 202-27-4**

This ordinance restricts certain types of large vehicles (includes commercial trucks, trailers, semitrailers, RV's, and buses) from parking between the hours of 2am and 6am, or between the hours of 10pm and 6am during a snow emergency. These types of large vehicles would be allowed to remain on street if not regulated overnight and often generate complaints because they occupy more on-street parking space, are unsightly and obstruct views.

- **Restrictions on streets designated as through highways MCO 101-27-8**

This ordinance restricts parking effective December 1- March 1 on through highways from 2am to 6am, or between the hours of 10pm and 6am during a snow emergency; meaning that parking is not allowed during those hours on main through highways and mass transit routes. This is critical to the success of the City of Milwaukee's emergency snow and ice control operations and maintaining these important emergency and mass transit routes for open and safe travel. Vehicles parking in the way of snow equipment will severely delay the time to complete snow clearing operations and prevent the City from successfully clearing the arterial streets and through highways that support mass transit, emergency response and in general higher volumes of travel.

In summary, night parking regulations play an important role in our successful delivery of key municipal services, such as, street sweeping, leaf collection and snow and ice operations. In some snow events, if we are not able to effectively manage our snow and ice control operations due to interference from parked vehicles, it may even compromise public safety. It is also important to note, that indefinitely suspending night parking regulations would result in a reduction in our Parking Enforcement workforce.



This workforce reduction would directly impact and limit our ability to enforce snow emergency parking regulations when needed during a snow event.

Furthermore, night parking permits and enforcement of night parking regulations generate revenue, which is reflected in the City’s annual budget to operate Parking Services and provide the City with an annual transfer to the general fund exceeding \$16 million/year to support other key City programs and priorities. The City’s Budget Office has indicated that this revenue is a significant component of our 2021 City budget and any reduction would result in a similar reduction of the transfer to the general fund. The lost revenue will require the City to make significant service reductions since increasing the tax levy to replace the lost revenue would violate State law. Additionally, continued delay in restoration of the night parking revenues in 2020 will continue to negatively impact the City’s 2020 finances and could lead to a further reduction in the City’s bond rating.

Year	Permit Sales	Citation Payments	Towing Payments	Total Night Revenue
2019	\$4,673,735	\$7,154,156	\$1,188,211	\$13,016,102

While parking enforcement generates revenue for the City, the main purpose of a fine is to encourage and enforce compliance with the regulations. Without fines, compliance would be non-existent and have the greatest impact to the highest population density neighborhoods where the use of available off-street parking needs to be maximized so that those who don’t have off-street options can find access to on-street parking. This is especially important during the winter months when we need good compliance so that we can successfully plow the streets. Night parking regulation citation fines are summarized below.

	Original fee	1 st Increase - After 14 days	2 nd increase – after 28 days	3 rd increase – after 58 days
Code 663 wrong side night parking	\$20	\$5	\$10	\$15
Code 660 no permit/ permission	\$20	\$5	\$10	\$15

- Vehicles which are illegally parking with three or more open citations all of which are 65+ days past due are eligible to be towed.
- Fines for violations during snow emergencies are progressive: 1st violation - \$50, 2nd violation - \$100, 3rd and subsequent violations - \$150 with tow eligibility.
- Individuals with citation fines of \$100 or more have the option to enter into a payment plan.

Finally, effective parking regulations benefit all city residents by providing parking access, addressing quality of life concerns, and allowing the delivery of efficient municipal services, including critical snow and ice control to maintain public safety. The revenues that result from the enforcement of these regulations are, in part, budgeted to support other critical programs and priorities that would otherwise be impacted without such revenue. With this in mind, I strongly recommend support for Common Council File #200638 and the reinstatement of the City’s Night Parking Regulations at the next meeting



of the Common Council on Tuesday October 13, 2020. With fall leaf collection soon in full swing and winter weather on the horizon, time is of the essence.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Polenske". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Polenske" clearly legible.

Jeffrey Polenske, PE
Commissioner of Public Works

CC: Mayor Tom Barrett
Dennis Yaccarino

