

3/06/02

Dear Neighbors,

Result of council meeting

Last night City Council voted to enact the staff recommendation for permit parking as written. This means that the perpendicular spaces on 9th will remain unregulated, but we will have permit parking on Michigan, 9th Street north of Michigan, and west side of 9th between Pico & Michigan. They have agreed to revisit the issue in 6 months to determine what effect this has on 9th St residents and surrounding area. It's not all we hoped for, but it's a step.

What happens now:

I'm told that within the next few weeks letters will be mailed to residents so they may purchase parking permits. In approximately 6-8 weeks the signs will go up. Some time later, the in-depth occupancy study will be done again, and numbers can be crunched. Meanwhile, each of us should keep our eyes open and our notepads & cameras handy over the next few months, with a goal of getting east side of 9th Street included.

Meeting details

The meeting went quickly. Our item (#11A) was called quite early, even the council members commented that they were going to be able to leave in record time. Quite a few neighbors did show up and voice their support (see below). Three high school students spoke in opposition to permit parking, most notably Justin Brownstone, president of SAMOHI student body. He was eloquent and polite, delivering a well thought out speech. Despite the circumstances, I must give him credit. He has a bright future ahead. Residents addressed council around 7:30 or 8:00 pm (I lost track of time), much earlier than any other meeting I've attended. All were polite, well spoken and very moving. Council members were overall sympathetic to our parking problems, but concerned about the effect of displacement as discussed in staff report. Council member Ken Genser stood out as being very thorough (calculating percents of vehicles displaced based on staff reports, etc) and put forth a motion to enact permit parking on all of 9th. His motion was not seconded. Nevertheless, I was extremely impressed with the consideration he gave to this. He deserves to be commended for his judgment, foresight and practicality.

Thank you all for your support. We had a great turnout!

The following people addressed the council:

Paul Bailey

Lew Siwinski

Mark P. Segal

Christian Boyce

Heather Oliver (Bay St)
Justin Brownstono (Student)
Sam Esptein (Student)
Christino Yi (Student)
Christine Krainer
Kathryn Morea
Todd Lancaster
Marlo Lacenere
Cesar Morea
Katherine Caulreno
Frances DeLaHuerta (6th St/Bay)
J. Alibe
Dean Henderson

All said, I think we've made great progress. Meanwhile, I'll keep in touch.