

McGill, Pam

From: David Lewis
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 3:39 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Problems with Parking

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To the Mountain View City Council:

I have a few comments about parking regulations and enforcement in Mountain View, based partially on my personal experiences.

- 1) The residential permit parking program, as presently run, clearly does not work at all. It is designed, intentionally or unintentionally, to prevent the establishment of residential permit parking zones, and has been successful in that regard. One would hope the system was not intentionally designed to prevent the establishment of these zones.
- 2) Enforcement of the state vehicle code on parking in front of driveways is completely absent. Such parking issues become more and more of a problem with less parking available with developments, requiring more of us to use the scarce on-street parking spaces. It is also a major issue with city events that bring in large numbers of visitors who apparently would prefer parking on-street rather than in our parking garages. Enforcement is also minimized by police interpreting the law incorrectly. I personally had an experience with an SUV with a bicycle rack on the back blocking half of my driveway, making it nearly impossible for me to get out of my driveway. When I contacted the police department, the officer who responded stated that the law required my driveway be completely obstructed and would not write a ticket. The law actually states that it applies for any obstruction of the driveway. The officer also noted that if I damaged the offending vehicle in trying to get out of my driveway, I would be liable for any damages, not the owner of the illegally parked vehicle.
- 3) Similar to the above, there is very little enforcement of the no parking rule in red zones—I've never seen any, and it can be a traffic hazard, and, if it involves a fire hydrant, a problem with fighting fires.
- 4) There is an immense problem with delivery vehicles and Uber/Lyft vehicles locking driveways for short periods and double parking, frequently on narrow streets such as Oak Street in front of my house. I have had Uber drivers blocking my driveway for 15-20 minutes while waiting to pick up a rider from one of my neighbor's homes. I have had delivery trucks completely blocking our street for 10 minutes.
- 5) Another problem I have seen in our neighborhood and in Shoreline West is the PODS type storage units parked on the street. I would assume this is not legal. When I moved to California, we had our belongings in several of these containers from a different company, but they were left on our driveway, not the street, and removed promptly once we had unpacked.
- 6) Last, the 72 hour parking limit for on-street parking is a joke. If you wait to notify the police that a vehicle has been left for 72 hours, it appears parking enforcement waits another 72 hours to ticket the vehicle, making the rule effectively a 6-day limit. There is no proactive system for parking enforcement to flag vehicles on their own, using license plate readers or a manual system. On our street, we routinely have vehicles left for long periods, 4-6 days, presumably while their owners are on business trips or vacations, without being ticketed.

David Lewis, Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

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Carol and David Lewis