

Good evening, members of the board. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Jessica Comando and I am a resident of New Haven and live on Hyde Street, close to Tweed Airport. My husband, Maxwell, and I have lived at 130 Hyde Street for the last seven years. We love our city and we love our neighborhood and we love and care for our neighbors.

I'm here today to ask for your support in establishing residential parking on our street. We are not against the expansion of the airport and we are not anti-Tweed but for the last few years, we've been dealing with motorists—often not from our neighborhood—leaving their cars parked in front of our homes for days, sometimes even weeks. Since the start of this year alone, we've counted over ten vehicles left for more than three days at a time.

This creates a serious inconvenience for residents, but it also creates safety concerns. During one of this winter's snowstorms, two vehicles were left on both sides of our street during an active parking ban. As a result, the plows couldn't properly clear the road, and it became a hazard for all of us who live there.

Our police and traffic departments are doing the best they can, but they're stretched thin and can't always respond to every call quickly. So we're left waiting, and in the meantime, our streets remain cluttered and sometimes unsafe.

On a more personal note, I walk my dog early in the morning, usually around 5 a.m. And I can't tell you how many times I've been approached by people, asking if it's legal to park there. As a woman walking alone at that hour, it's extremely unnerving to be pulled into those conversations. I have also had people come to my door, ring my bell, and ask to park in our driveway. Clear signage would help eliminate that confusion and would also help ensure that our neighborhood isn't being used as a free parking lot and is safer.

We're simply asking for a system that prioritizes the needs of residents, improves safety, and makes enforcement easier. Thank you for considering this request.