

RIVERPLACE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

24-164 FRONT STREET AND 15-57 EXCHANGE STREET | NEW HAVEN, CT 06513

February 8, 2021

Representative Juan Candelaria Juan.Candelaria@cga.ct.gov
Aldерwoman Tyisha Walker-Myers ward23@newhavenct.gov
Albert Lucas alucas@newhavenct.gov

Dear Representative Candelaria, Aldерwoman Walker-Myers, And Director Lucas:

For years, we have been asking for traffic calming measures and parking abatement for our community of 88 families. During his term, our former alderman, Kenneth Reveiz convened two forums for us, where we spoke with city officials, including Doug Hausladen (Traffic, Transportation and Parking), Giovanni Zinn (City Engineering), Jeff Pescosolido (Public Works), Rebecca Bombero (Parks & Rec) and others, yielding no traffic calming measures, no parking assistance and no park support. When Kenneth was replaced by Paola Acosta, we had hopes that she might be able to take over and move our agenda forward. However, starting from day one, when she didn't show up for the inauguration, she has been unresponsive.

Following the lead of one of our residents, who had some success with communicating directly with the mayor, we also reached out directly to Mayor Elicker, who did respond and personally forwarded our concerns to Doug Hausladen and Giovanni Zinn. We were elated when we finally met with them over Zoom on January 26, and were told that traffic calming measures were in the works for this year, and were shown the plans for such.

Our next step was to ask for help with our parking requests. Doug Hausladen let us know that any request for parking signs or resident permitted parking needed to come from our alderperson. Once again, we reached out to Ms. Acosta, with no response. We have taken our concerns to the Ward 14 Democratic Committee co-chairs, and were encouraged to reach out to you as our next step. One of the residents (not the board) has taken our frustration into her own hands and has begun a petition to remove Ms. Acosta, so that there may be room for someone else to step in to do the job. We need someone whose attention is on Ward 14 full-time.

We are looking to you to let us know what our next steps are. If you would like further information about our list of requests to the City, we'd be happy to provide a copy.

The board and several concerned residents have compiled a list of the changes regarding parking that we presented for your consideration, in order that we might improve our quality of life here at Riverplace. We have organized our thoughts into three categories, with some suggestions for solutions, but recognize that you may have other solutions in mind. For any signage that might be produced, we're wondering if it could be in English and Spanish, due to the diversity of those who live and visit here. Most of our requests are regarding parking, but to consolidate the entirety of our requests into one document, the last one is regarding signage in the park.

1. Egress visibility – it is very challenging for us to pull out into the street, with cars, trucks and SUVs parked on our side of the street, so close to the driveways. Is there something the City can provide, so that parking is restricted in areas within a certain distance from the boundaries of the driveways? Our thoughts were signs and/or curb painting.
2. Loiterers – It is very disconcerting, especially during temperate seasons, to have strangers literally sitting under our windows, blasting music, drinking, dropping their trash on the curb strip, using drugs and/or having sex. We have tried to address this on our own, by photographing autos whose drivers and passengers are exhibiting these types of behavior, but have been chased and threatened. Is it possible for us to have resident permitted parking from dusk to dawn? If so, please advise as to what that would entail, such as if there are any fees attached to individual residents wishing to secure permits.
3. Opposite side parking – Related to the challenges above, we are wondering why no one parks on the park side of the street. This is one of the most picturesque places in the city, and many of the visitors who come here, come for the park and the recreation it offers. Yet, they park on this side, and not the park side, where it would be easier to load and unload their paraphernalia and would not have to cross a busy road. Is it possible to paint parking spots on the other side of the street, to encourage parking there (except for the bus stops)?
4. Parks Signage – Lastly, we are requesting replacement of stolen Parks signs, indicating Parks rules, such as:
 - a. Park hours
 - b. No motor vehicles, except where permitted
 - c. Leave no trace
 - i. Trash
 - ii. Animal waste
 - iii. Fishing waste
 - iv. Whatever else is on the standard list of Parks rules

Sincerely,

Jill Zamparo
President, Riverplace Homeowners Association
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