

ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**JULIANN FLAHERTY**  
Acting Chief of Police



*Town of Arlington*  
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marie Krepelka  
Board Administrator

FROM: Officer Corey P. Rateau  
Traffic and Parking Unit

DATE: May 17, 2019

RE: Request: On Street Overnight Parking 2 118 Westminster Avenue

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At your request, the Arlington Police Department Traffic and Parking Unit looked into the petition by Mr. and Mrs. Stansbury seeking to have two on-street overnight parking spaces in front of their residence at 118 Westminster Avenue. The Traffic and Parking unit **does not** support this current request.

As explained to the petitioners, the town right-of-way does not need to be paved to be considered part of the sidewalk. Article 1 of the Traffic Rules and Orders defines a sidewalk as "That portion of a street or highway set aside for pedestrian travel." A person needing to seek refuge from vehicles on a roadway can travel upon the grass as well as a paved pathway. This was previously pointed out when people straddling the curb and/or parking along the grass strips on Pleasant Street attempted to argue that they were not parked on the sidewalk. We do not think that a precedent should be set allowing parties to be permitted to park on what is by definition the sidewalk, which is already a violation of Article V, Sec. 1 of the Traffic Rules and Orders.

We also do not think that parking on the street would be feasible. Although partially faded at this time due to being only temporarily marked after recently being repaved, this portion of Westminster Avenue is marked with a double-yellow line defining the two lanes of travel. Each travel lane is approximately 14 feet wide and vehicles parked on the roadway would not yield the requisite ten-foot lane of travel for passing vehicles (as also required by Article V, Sec. 1) without forcing them over the double-yellow line and potentially into oncoming traffic.

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In the rear of the property, there is a driveway present that appears capable of holding two vehicles parked in tandem. While we do understand that maneuvering can be difficult due to the shared right-of-way with 14 Westcourt Terrace, it should be pointed out that it appears that the rear of the petitioner's property was modified with hardscaping that includes a paver-type retaining wall. There is also another section of this shared right-of-way that contains more hardscaping, including a path leading to a water feature but it is unknown if this belongs to 118 Westminster or 14 Westcourt Terrace. But regardless, it appears that had this retaining wall not been built right up to the edge of the driveway at 118 Westminster, maneuvering and turning vehicles while entering and exiting would not be as difficult. (Please see photographs taken 05/17/19 on the following page).

Due to the above listed observations and based on past practices, we do not feel that this residence meets the standards for granting an on-street overnight permit.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance in this matter.

CPR

Cc: Juliann Flaherty  
Acting Chief of Police

Capt. Paul Conroy  
Support Services Commander

Lt. Richard Pedrini  
OIC / Traffic, Details, and Licensing

Deputy Chief Kevin Kelley  
Arlington Fire Operations

Adam Chapdelaine  
Town Manager

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