

# ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE  
Frederick Ryan



*Town of Arlington*  
MASSACHUSETTS 02474

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Marie Krepelka  
Board Administrator

FROM: Officer Corey P. Rateau  
Traffic and Parking Unit

DATE: May 8, 2014

RE: Request: Two Spaces, On-Street Overnight Parking @ 91 Westminster Ave

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At your request, the Arlington Police Department Traffic and Parking Unit looked into the petition by Mr. Goldstein seeking to have two on-street overnight parking spaces in front of his residence at 91 Westminster Avenue. The Traffic and Parking unit **does not** support this current request.

The past standard has always been that cost to the petitioner is not a factor in such determinations; but rather or not it is structurally possible to install a driveway. A review of the area shows that with the exception of Mr. Goldstein's property, every other residence on this block of Westminster Avenue listed in the Mt. Gilboa Historical Register with a similar stone retaining wall has been modified to accommodate either a driveway or a multi-car garage. Furthermore, in Title VII (Historic Districts) Article 4, Sec. 3 (Limitations on Authority of Commissions) subsection (B) of the Town Bylaws, it specifically states that the Commission does not have the authority to review "Terraces, walks, driveways, sidewalks, and similar structures, or any one or more of them, provided that any such structure is substantially at grade level." Thus installing a driveway without altering the building structure itself atop the hill should not mar the historical nature of his residence as he has suggested.

We also do not support the Arlington Fire Department's recommendation of having the front of the area paved, striped and signed as a designated parking area for 91 Westminster Avenue. This area is still part of the public way and their recommendation could set a precedent that private parties can make minor improvements to part of a public way and then be granted exclusive parking

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privileges. From an enforcement standpoint, it would put the Police Department in a position where they may get calls at all times of the day to ticket a vehicle parked on a public way just because the complainant paid to have it paved; something that would not happen on any other public way in town.

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

CPR

Cc: Frederick Ryan  
Police Chief

Capt. Julie Flaherty  
Support Services Commander

Lt. Paul Conroy  
OIC, Details, Traffic and Licensing

Deputy James Bailey  
Arlington Fire Prevention

Adam Chapdelaine  
Town Manager

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