



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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December 11, 2006

Dear Neighbor of the Mercer Island High School,

While parking in the high school neighborhood has been an ongoing concern for the City, the School District and surrounding neighbors, public interest has increased lately due to recent events. The following information is provided to help clarify the situation and explain how you can provide input about parking on your street.

About Parking in the High School Neighborhood

- On several neighborhood streets near the high school, current parking restrictions do not allow anyone to park between 7 am to 4 pm on school days.
- A “restricted parking district” (RPD) was proposed that would give residents the option of buying annual permits for a small fee so that residents, their guests and their contractors could park on the street. Only residents within the RPD would be able to obtain parking permits.
- To gauge interest in the RPD idea, the City and School District held an open house on October 17, 2006. The Open House was advertised in the newspaper, the City’s website, the City’s weekly electronic newsletter (MI Weekly), posters placed around the Island, and by sending postcards to 770 households near the high school. Public feedback about the RPD was mixed, with many requesting that the parking restrictions remain in place without the implementation of an RPD.
- At the Regular Council Meeting on November 6, City Council passed a motion to “maintain the status quo.” This means that an RPD will not be implemented and the “no parking” signs posted in the neighborhood surrounding the high school site will remain as they are now, prohibiting parking between the hours of 7 am to 4 pm on school days. Enforcement will be increased. Council also directed staff to look at whether or not there is a need for “no parking” signs in additional areas near the high school.
- The City will not restrict parking on any new street unless it is supported by all residents of that street.

If you live on a street that does not have restricted parking and you do not want anyone to park on your street between 7 am to 4 pm on school days:

1. Please go to www.mercergov.org/restricted_parking and fill out a brief form online. You can also submit comments to: parking@mercergov.org or mail to: Attn: Parking, City of Mercer Island, 9611 SE 36th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040. Be sure to include your name, address, and contact information.
2. Responses will be reviewed over the coming months. Parking restrictions will not be implemented unless unanimously supported by an entire block. This is to avoid shifting the problem from one side of the street to another, and to make sure there is consensus among neighbors.
3. If you live on an unrestricted street and you would like it to remain unrestricted, you do not need to do anything.

The City of Mercer Island is committed to the safety and livability of Mercer Island neighborhoods. Thank you for your patience and input.

Sincerely,

Nancy Fairchild
Transportation Planner
City of Mercer Island

