



Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

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April 18, 2014

Diana Saenger
City of Minneapolis -Traffic and Parking Services
33 North 9th Street, Room 100
Minneapolis, MN 55403-1326

via email

Dear Ms. Saenger

Re: Removing parking restrictions on Bossen Terrace

NENA has had discussions with residents, property owners and managers about permit parking in the Bossen area (Critical Parking Area #28) as part of our participation in the Council Member Quincy's Benefiting Bossen Group.

The Bossen CPA was established several years ago with intent of making drug dealing by outside parties more difficult. The restricted parking between 5pm and 3am was intended to address a crime problem rather than a parking problem.

In September, the manager of Bossen Park Apartments (5710 Bossen Terrace and 5717 31st Ave S) reported to the Benefitting Bossen Group that his residents were having problems related to the permit required for Bossen Terrace. He explained that there is not enough space in their lots for all the tenants' cars, so people need to park on the street. To avoid getting tickets, they park on blocks outside the CPA, which has irritated residents on those streets. One Bossen Park Apartment resident reported that his tires were slashed when they were parked on one of those streets. After a lengthy discussion, everyone present supported removing the CPA on Bossen Terrace while leaving it in place on Sander Drive and 33rd Ave S. It is believed to still be effective on Sander and 33rd in reducing drug dealing.

NENA and MPD staff have met with Spanish speaking residents of Bossen Park Apartments (which are 90% or more Hispanic) twice since the beginning of this year. In both meetings, parking permits were the primary concern expressed by residents. They get tickets when they park on Bossen Terrace. With all the parking spaces assigned for the two Bossen Park buildings, street parking is the only option. Given the unusual configuration of the streets in this area, finding parking that is reasonably close during restricted hours can be challenging, especially when traveling with children, carrying packages, and so on.

The Bossen Group met with area property owners in March. Only two of the approximately 8 building owners who attended preferred to leave the entire CPA in place. The remaining owners had no objection to removing the critical parking permit on Bossen Terrace while leaving it in place on Sander Drive and 31St Ave S.

NENA supports adjusting the CPA, since it has caused parking problems, and there is no evidence that it is necessary on Bossen Terrace. Residents and owners agree that Sander Drive and 31st Ave are the center of drug activity in the Bossen area, and the CPA there is believed to be useful in controlling access by non-residents waiting for customers, and should be continued.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rita Ulrich
Executive Director

cc: Council Member Quincy