City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

Police Department

DATE: **July 15, 2015**

TO: **Joseph A. Valentine, City Manager**

FROM: **Donald A. Studt, Police Chief**

SUBJECT: **Residential Permit Parking Zone Request for Bowers Street between Columbia and S. Eton**

The Multi-Modal Transportation Board considered a petition circulated by the residents of Bowers Street between Columbia and S. Eton to have Residential Permit Parking. There are twenty-six residences on Bowers St. between Columbia St. and S. Eton St. According to the residents' petition, twenty-four of the residences are occupied. All twenty-four occupied residents were contacted in an attempt to examine the attached petition requesting Residential Permit Parking (see attached petition). Of the twenty-four, three could not be reached (13%), one resident did not want residential permit parking (4%) and twenty were in favor of Residential Permit Parking (83%).

The residents' petition is for Residential Permit Parking on both sides of Bowers St. between Columbia St. and S. Eton St (1800-1900 block) at all times (all hours).

The residents' request is within city ordinance and city guidelines for Residential Permit Parking.

The Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB) discussed the request. It was determined that the parking problems were related to employees and patrons of the Griffin Claw Brewery and the Robot Garage using Bowers to park. The Multi-Modal Transportation Board made a motion to approve Residential Permit Parking for Bowers Street between Columbia and S. Eton consistent with the petition. The motion passed 5-0 (see attached minutes).

The MMTB did want the City Commission to know that this area of the City, encompassing the Rail District and adjacent neighborhoods, has a serious parking problem that is only going to get worse until a plan can be formulated that would increase the availability of parking.

RESOLUTION:
To approve the installation of Residential Permit Parking for Bowers Street between Columbia and S. Eton at all times. Further, to direct the Chief of Police and the City Clerk to sign the traffic control order on behalf of the City establishing Residential Permit Parking on Bowers Street between Columbia and S. Eton at all times.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015
City Commission Room
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, July 9, 2015. Chairperson Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Johanna Slanga; Board Members Stuart Bordman, Andy Lawson, Michael Surnow, Amanda Warner; Student Representative Daniel Evans

Absent: Board Members Vionna Adams, Lara Edwards; Student Representative Rebecca Mendel

Administration: Mark Clemence, Deputy Chief of Police
Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Austin Fletcher, Asst. City Engineer
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer
Carole Salutes, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Mike Labadie from Fleis & Vandenbrink ("F&V"), Transportation Engineering Consultants

B. INTRODUCTIONS (none)

C. REVIEW AGENDA (no change)

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MEETING OF MAY 7, 2015

Moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of May 7, 2015 as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

E. BOWERS ST. RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING

Mr. Clemence informed the group that Mr. Brian Renner and Ms. Barbara McIntosh, on behalf of the residents of Bowers St. between Columbia St. and S. Eton St., request Residential Permit Parking on both sides of the street.

There are 26 residences on Bowers St. between Columbia St. and S. Eton St. According to Mr. Renner, 24 of the residences are occupied. All 24 occupied residents were contacted in an attempt to examine a petition requesting Residential Permit Parking. Of the 24, three could not be reached (13%), one resident did not want Residential Permit Parking (4%) and 20 were in favor of Residential Permit Parking (83%).

The residents' petition is for Residential Permit Parking on both sides of Bowers St. between Columbia St. and S. Eton St. (1800-1900 block) at all times.

The residents' request is within City ordinance and City guidelines for Residential Permit Parking.

Mr. Clemence said in response to Chairperson Slanga's concern about making a decision on Bowers as an independent street that City policy is each street is independent if they present a petition signed by 75% of the residents. The MMTB makes a recommendation to the City Commission and the Commission has the final vote.

The chairperson opened discussion to the public at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Brian Renner, 1971 Bowers, presented photos of cars parked all along his street. He stated the problem has continuously become worse. It is extremely difficult for emergency vehicles to get through plus visitors to the residences have no place to go.

Ms. Barbara McIntosh, 1945 Bowers, said residents have started to notice that parking on the street has escalated. Cars begin to park on her street at 8 a.m. and it is difficult for residents to get in and out of their driveways. Most of the parkers are employees of the Robot Garage and Griffin Claw Brewery.

Mr. Larry Bertollini, 1275 Webster, spoke in support of permit parking on Bowers. The residential streets should not be a parking lot for businesses.

It was discussed there is no plan at this time to add public parking to the Rail District. Ms. Ecker said Griffin Claw employees are required as a condition of their Special Land Use Permit to have their employees park in the Big Rock parking deck. Management is in the process of dealing with employees who are not following that direction.

Ms. Warner thought the board should honor the residents' needs, but it should be recognized by the City Commission there is a parking issue that needs to be addressed.

Motion by Ms. Warner
Seconded by Mr. Bordman to approve Residential Permit Parking on Bowers St. between Columbia St. and S. Eton St. (1800-1900 block) for all hours of the day.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE
Yeas: Warner, Bordman, Lawson, Slanga, Surnow
Nays: None
Absent: Adams, Edwards

Mr. Larry Bertollini made one last comment. Restaurants are allowed to have outdoor dining and no off-street parking is required. He hopes that will be brought up in front of the City Commission.

F. COLE ST. TRAFFIC ISSUES

Mr. Clemence said that on June 12, 2015, Mr. Romel Llarena wrote a letter to Mayor Sherman outlining his concern over traffic safety issues on Cole St. The letter was forwarded to the Police Dept. for a response.

The Police Dept. conducted a speed/volume count on Cole St. from June 23, 2015 to June 26, 2015. The speed/volume count took place on Cole St, between Torry and S. Eton and was as accurate as possible in relation to Mr. Llarena's address on Cole St. (1808 Cole). An analysis of the speed volume count showed that the 85th percentile was 27 mph for both WB and EB traffic. The volume also showed that the count was less than 1,000 cars per day. There are approximately sixty residences on Cole St. between S. Eton and Torry alone. Common engineering practice is to assume two cars per residence that drive at least twice a day, up to five trips a day.

In his letter, Mr. Llarena brings up several ideas which the Police Dept. opposes on how to address his traffic safety issue. The Police Dept. is committed to the safety and welfare of all citizens in the City and will continue to work radar/deploy speed board on Cole St. to address the issue of speeding vehicles.

Mr. Llanena said the area is experiencing extreme prosperity and the businesses are doing quite well. The problem is that people use Cole St. as a cut-through to the commercial district and some of them have no respect for the speed limits.

Petition for Residential Permit Parking on Bowers Street

Petition summary and background	With the popularity of nearby Griffin Claw Brewery Company, Bowers Street (near S. Eton Street) suffers parking spill-over of Griffin Claw patrons' vehicles parked on the street during afternoon and evening hours. To eliminate this spill-over on the neighborhood, a petition for residential permit parking for Bowers Street was recommended by both the Birmingham City Commission (per February 23, 2015 meeting) and Planning Board (per January 16, 2015 meeting).
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned residents, and/or property owners on Bowers Street in Birmingham, Michigan, urge the Birmingham City Commission to impose residential permit parking on both North and South sides of Bowers Street (1800-1900 block, between Columbia Street and S. Eton Street). We request the signage to read, "Parking Permit Required at all times", which will eliminate the parking spill-over of Griffin Claw patrons' vehicles on the street.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Date
BRIAN RENNER		1971 BOWERS ST	5/20/15
Barbara Martin Yost		1945 Bowers	5/21/15
Tom Wynne-Tower		1931 Bowers	6-21-15
Joan MacFarlane	Joan MacFarlane	1903 Bowers St.	5-20-15
Betty Longhi	Betty Longhi	1902 Bowers ST	5-21-15
Jason R Meister		1918 Bowers St	5-21-15
Thomas Stubbs		1815 Bowers St	5-24-15
Heather Doyon		1964 Bowers St	5/24/15
Jason Folt		1989 Bowers St	5/24/15
David D. Plon		1963 Bowers	5/25/15
Lisa Churchill	Lisa Churchill	1875 Bowers	5/25/15

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Date
Colleen Raezler	Colleen Raezler	1847 Bowers, B'ham	5/25/15
Natalie Roby	NRoby	1859 Bowers, B'ham 48009	5-25/15
Cameron Lees		1982 Bowers Bham 48009	5-25/15
Troy Murray		1930 Bowers 48009	
RICHARD Thornton		1882 BOWERS	5/26/15
FRED HUGHES	Fred Hughes	1876 Bowers	5/26/15
Phyllis Klinger	Phyllis Klinger	1844 Bowers	5/27/15
Lucy Strumbos		1860 Bowers St.	5/27/15
Travis Moore		1912 Bowers St.	5/27/15