



City of Kingston Public Safety/General Government Committee  
Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
6:30 PM  
Conference Room 1  
420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401

**1 CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE**

**2 NEW BUSINESS**

- 2.a. Removal of No Parking signs on Pearl Street.  
[20190923124525.pdf](#)
- 2.b. Alternate side parking  
[20190924081922.pdf](#)
- 2.c. No Parking on Joys Lane  
[20190924081937.pdf](#)

**3 OLD BUSINESS**

- 3.a. Stop Sign Lincoln & Grant Sts.  
[20190923104625.pdf](#)
- 3.b. Stop Sign Winchell & S. Wall St  
[20190923104635.pdf](#)
- 3.c. Handicap Parking 60 Van Buren St.  
[20190923104646.pdf](#)
- 3.d. 2 Hour Parking at 190 Fair St.  
[20190923104701.pdf](#)
- 3.e. Handicap parking 38 Van Deusen St.  
[20190923104711.pdf](#)
- 3.f. Removal of handicap parking 193 Clinton Ave.  
[20190923105937.pdf](#)
- 3.g. 25 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit  
[20190923110322.pdf](#)

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

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**Subject:**

Removal of No Parking signs on Pearl Street.

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923124525.pdf](#)

25

**Tinti, Elisa**

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**From:** Noble, James  
**Sent:** Monday, September 09, 2019 10:45 AM  
**To:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Subject:** Fwd: Parking spaces at the former St. Joseph's school

Please add to the PS Committee. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Koop, Douglas" <dkoop@kingston-ny.gov>  
**Date:** September 8, 2019 at 4:55:32 PM EDT  
**To:** "Noble, James" <jnoble@kingston-ny.gov>  
**Cc:** "Schultheis, John" <jschultheis@kingston-ny.gov>, "Norman, Edward" <enorman@kingston-ny.gov>, "Scott-Childress, Reynolds" <rscott-childress@kingston-ny.gov>, Steve Schabot <:sschabot@hvc.rr.com>  
**Subject:** Parking spaces at the former St. Joseph's school

Dear Alderman-at-Large Noble:

There are 3-5 parking spaces at the former St. Joseph's school on Pearl Street, with signs that specify "No Parking, 8: 30 am-4 pm. September 1-May 30."

As St. Joseph's School has closed, these parking restrictions are obviously no longer necessary.

These spaces should now be allocated to revenue producing parking spaces.

I ask that this issue be place on the agenda for the appropriate Common Council committee.

Sincerely,

Douglas Koop

Ward 2 Alderman

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

Alternate side parking

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190924081922.pdf](#)

P.S.

## Sills, Dee

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**From:** Worthington, Rita  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:26 AM  
**To:** Schultheis, John  
**Cc:** Shaut, Andrea; Sills, Dee; Schabot, Steven  
**Subject:** FW: Alternate Side Parking  
**Attachments:** Alternate Parking-08292019095526.pdf

Sorry, I forgot attachment.  
Rita

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**From:** Worthington, Rita  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:24 AM  
**To:** Schultheis, John  
**Cc:** Bergquist, Diane; Shaut, Andrea; Tinti, Elisa; Schabot, Steven  
**Subject:** Alternate Side Parking

John:

As result of last night's Public Safety Meeting, I was directed to submit a request for a resolution amending and/or removing from the City Code, alternate side parking on VanBuren Street. I was told that VanBuren Street is designated as an alternate side parking street. I have resided on Prospect/VanBuren Street(s) for nearly 20 years and I can never remember it being designated as an alternate side parking street, with the exception of snow emergencies. Vehicles have always parked on both sides of the street, even after it became a one-way street.

I looked at the City Charter and found Section 390-101 - Schedule XVIII - Permitted Odd Side Parking. Although I found Prospect Street on the list, I did not find VanBuren Street listed as a designated alternate side parking street. If I am looking at the wrong code or at the wrong schedule, please advise.

I have a few constituents who are requesting handicap parking signs. With the new rules for any type of signage first going through your office and getting an analysis, the concern is delay.

I'd like to have the analysis done for the following so we can have it for the next public safety meeting; unfortunately, many items had to be tabled in anticipation of an analysis.

1. 60 VanBuren Street - Handicap Parking;
2. 38 VanDeusen Street - Handicap Parking; and
3. 193 Clinton Ave. - Removal of Handicap Parking.

From what I understand, the study/analysis should not take too long.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Rita Worthington  
Ward 4

Parking will be permitted on the odd side of the street on odd-numbered days and on the even side of the street on even-numbered days, with times to remain in accordance with previous rules.

| Name of Street                                                    | Side            | Location                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andrew Street                                                     | North           | From Peter Street to Mary's Avenue                                                                              |
| Andrew Street                                                     | South           | From Peter Street to Mary's Avenue                                                                              |
| Brewster Street<br>[Added 12-3-1985; amended 1-10-2006]           | North<br>(odd)  | From Levan Street to Trenton Street                                                                             |
| Brewster Street<br>[Added 12-3-1985; amended 1-10-2006]           | South<br>(even) | From Levan Street to Trenton Street                                                                             |
| Foxhall Avenue<br>[Added 9-2-1986]                                | East            | From Highland Avenue to Wynkoop Place                                                                           |
| Foxhall Avenue<br>[Added 9-2-1986]                                | West            | From Prince Street to Garden Street                                                                             |
| Garden Street<br>[Added 4-7-1987]                                 | North-<br>west  | Entire length                                                                                                   |
| Garden Street<br>[Added 4-7-1987]                                 | South-<br>east  | Entire length                                                                                                   |
| Green Street<br>[Amended 7-12-1994]                               | East            | From Main Street to St. James Street                                                                            |
| Green Street<br>[Amended 7-12-1994]                               | West            | From Main Street to St. James Street                                                                            |
| Linwood Avenue<br>[Added 4-5-1994]                                | East            | Entire length                                                                                                   |
| Linwood Avenue<br>[Added 4-5-1994]                                | West            | Entire length                                                                                                   |
| Lucas Avenue<br>[Added 10-7-1986]                                 | North           | From a point 100 feet east of Voorhees Avenue west to a point 100 feet west of Boulder Avenue                   |
| Lucas Avenue<br>[Added 10-7-1986]                                 | South           | From a point 100 feet east of Voorhees Avenue extended west to a point 100 feet west of Boulder Avenue extended |
| Maiden Lane<br>Maiden Lane<br>[Added 6-7-2011, approved 6-8-2011] | North<br>North  | From Green Street to Clinton Avenue<br>Between Wall Street and Fair Street                                      |
| Maiden Lane<br>Maiden Lane<br>[Added 6-7-2011, approved 6-8-2011] | South<br>South  | From Green Street to Clinton Avenue<br>Between Wall Street and Fair Street                                      |
| North Front Street<br>[Added 2-3-2011]                            | East            | Between Wall Street and Crown Street                                                                            |
| North Front Street<br>[Added 2-3-2011]                            | West            | Between Wall Street and Crown Street                                                                            |
| Pine Street                                                       | East            | From St. James Street to Maiden Lane                                                                            |
| Pine Street                                                       | West            | From St James Street to Maiden Lane                                                                             |
| Prince Street<br>[Added 5-5-2009]                                 | North           | Entire length                                                                                                   |
| Prince Street<br>[Added 5-5-2009]                                 | South           | Entire length                                                                                                   |
| Prospect Street                                                   | East            | From Henry Street to James Street                                                                               |

| <b>Name of Street</b>             | <b>Side</b> | <b>Location</b>                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prospect Street                   | West        | From Henry Street to St. James Street                                       |
| Teller Street<br>Added 9-3-2003]  | Even        | Between Foxhall Avenue and Tietjen Avenue                                   |
| Teller Street<br>[Added 9-3-2003] | Odd         | Between Foxhall Avenue and Tietjen Avenue                                   |
| Trenton Street                    | North       | From Andrew Street to Brewster Street                                       |
| Trenton Street                    | South       | From Andrew Street east to the projected intersection<br>of Brewster Street |
| Wall Street<br>[Added 2-3-2011]   | North       | Between John Street and North Front Street                                  |
| Wall Street<br>[Added 2-3-2011]   | South       | Between John Street and North Front Street                                  |

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

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**Subject:**

No Parking on Joys Lane

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190924081937.pdf](#)

PS

*Keyser Funeral & Cremation Service 326 Albany Avenue*

*A. Carr & Son Funeral Home 65 Lucas Avenue*

Kingston, NY 12401



**Keyser**

*Funeral & Cremation Service, Inc.*

**A. Carr & Son**

*Funeral Home*

*Keyser Funeral & Cremation Service 216 Broadway*

Port Ewen, NY 12466

September 5, 2019

Dear Jeffrey Ventura Morell,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me in regard to adding no parking signage near my driveway on Lucas Avenue. I appreciate your help with this matter.

Due to the driveway consistently being partially blocked and sometimes fully blocked, I am requesting that two no parking signs be considered. As you can see from the attached diagram, if possible, I would like one "No Parking Between Driveways" sign added between my driveway and the neighbor's driveway and one "No Parking Here to Driveway" sign added on the Joys Lane side of my driveway approximately 10' away from the driveway.

Also attached to this document are two photos taken on 9/4/19 which show two different instances approximately 4.5 hours apart where entrance/exit to the driveway was difficult due to cars parking too close.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This change would give my funeral home client families, my staff, myself, and my family a much safer entry and exit into the parking lot.

Sincerely,

Luke Keyser

*Compassionate. Caring. Affordable.*

Eric and Luke Keyser, Funeral Directors

Toys Lane

65 Lucas Ave  
Car Funeral Home

10' from  
driveway  
#2

Lucas Avenue

Funeral Home Parking

centered  
between driveways

#1

Neighbor's Driveway

#1

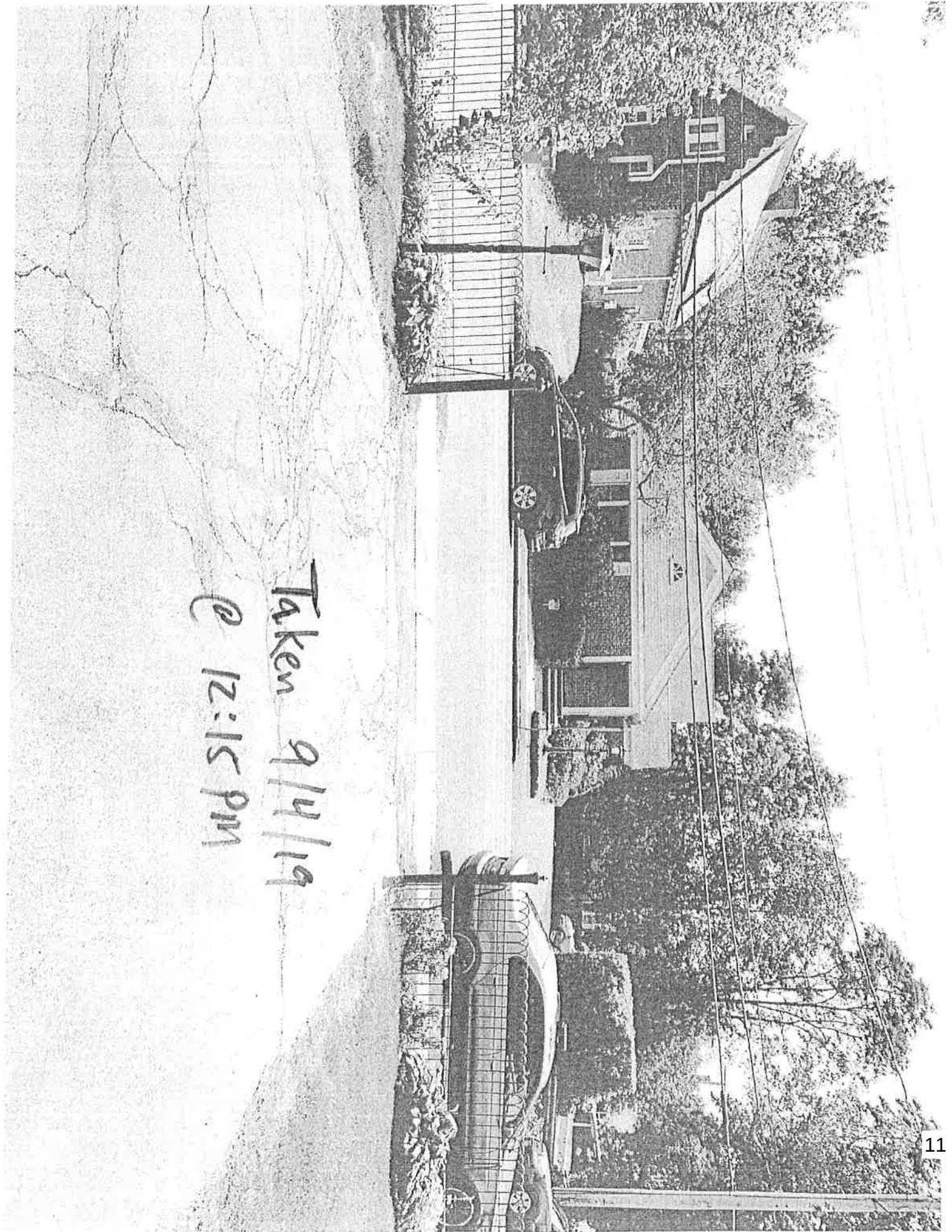
No Parking  
Between  
Driveways



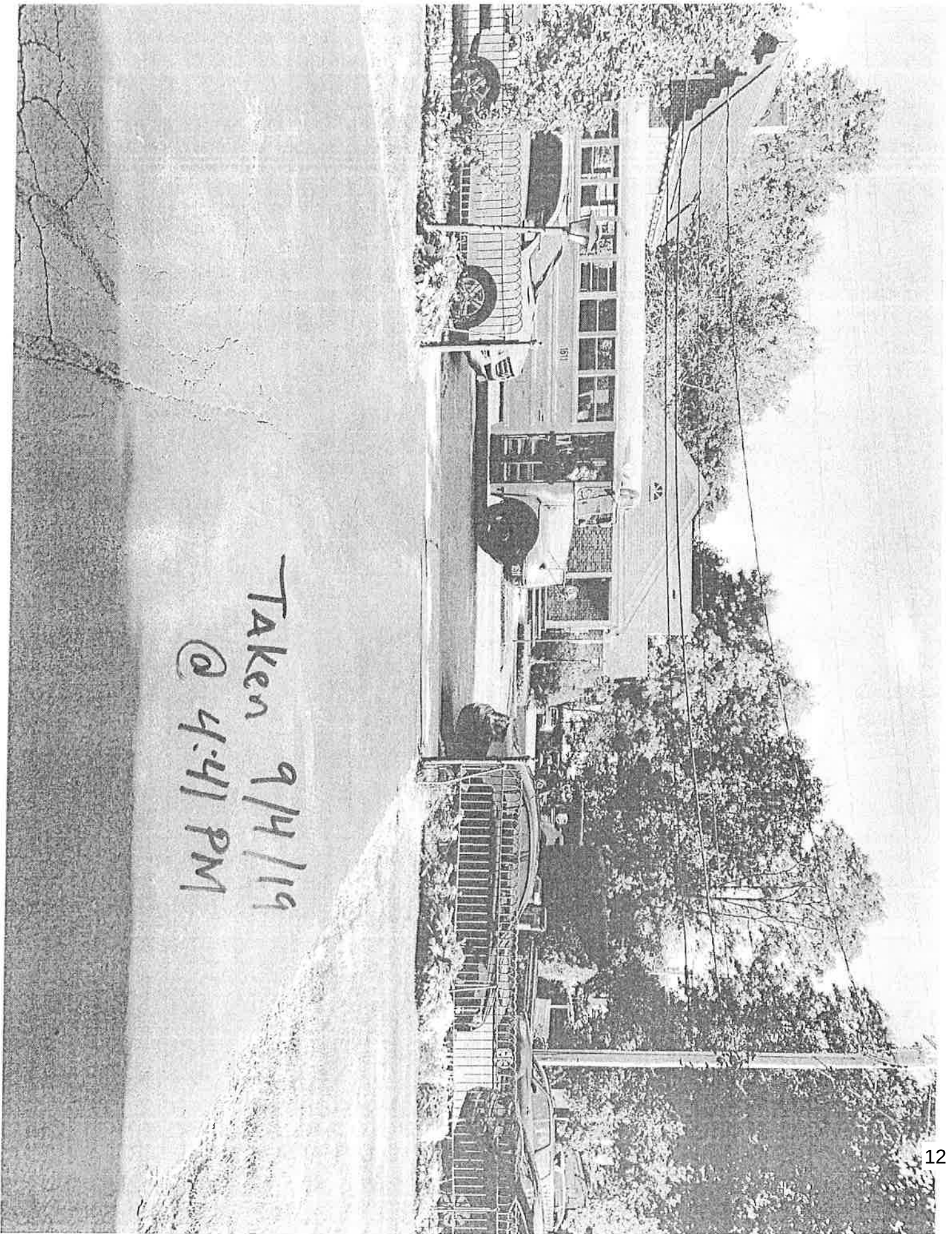
#2

No Parking  
Here to  
Driveway





Taken 9/14/19  
@ 12:15 PM



Taken 9/14/19  
@ 4:41 PM

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

Stop Sign Lincoln & Grant Sts.

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923104625.pdf](#)

PS

**Tinti, Elisa**

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**From:** Noble, James  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 9:50 PM  
**To:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stop Sign in Ward 7

Hi Elisa

Please forward this communication to the PS Committee. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "O'Reilly, Patrick" <ward7@kingston-ny.gov>  
**Date:** July 22, 2019 at 10:55:22 PM EDT  
**To:** "Noble, James" <jnoble@kingston-ny.gov>  
**Cc:** "Tinti, Elisa" <emtinti@kingston-ny.gov>, "Sills, Dee" <dsills@kingston-ny.gov>, "Schabot, Steven" <sschabot@kingston-ny.gov>  
**Subject:** Stop Sign in Ward 7

Dear President Noble,

I am requesting that stop signs be placed on the corner of Lincoln street and Grant street. This intersection is on top of a hill that blocks the oncoming drivers view of pedestrians walking up the hill. During the morning drivers are blinded at this corner by the sunrise. This corner is located one block from Hutton park and gets foot traffic from the park. Please forward this request to the appropriate committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick O'Reilly

Alderman #7

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

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**Subject:**

Stop Sign Winchell & S. Wall St

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923104635.pdf](#)

Sills, Dee

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**From:** Carey, Bill  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 2:05 PM  
**To:** Sills, Dee  
**Subject:** Fwd: Stop sign communication

Dee

I got Elisa's out of office message so am forwarding this to you in case. I will send two more requests as well that I sent earlier.

Thanks

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[bcarey@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:bcarey@kingston-ny.gov)>  
**Date:** July 31, 2019 at 1:57:11 PM EDT  
**To:** "jnoble39@aol.com" <[jnoble39@aol.com](mailto:jnoble39@aol.com)>, <[emtinti@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:emtinti@kingston-ny.gov)>  
**Subject:** Stop sign communication

Jim

Could you refer to the proper committee a request for a stop sign on Winchell Avenue where it intersects with South Wall Street. Currently there are stop signs on South Wall at that location which means cars coming out of the side street have the right of way and no stop sign. I think this presents a dangerous situation.

Thanks

Bill Carey  
Ward 5

Sent from my iPhone

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

Handicap Parking 60 Van Buren St.

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923104646.pdf](#)

**Tinti, Elisa**

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**From:** Carey, Bill  
**Sent:** Monday, August 05, 2019 6:43 PM  
**To:** jnoble39@aol.com; Tinti, Elisa; Worthington, Rita  
**Subject:** Handicapped sign on Van Buren

I received a call from a Ward 4 constituent (she was told she was in Ward 5) today requesting handicapped parking designation at 60 Van Buren Street. The person in need is Victor Goodridge and her name is April Sackett. I am copying Rita and will follow up with her as well, but if you could refer to August Public Safety, I would appreciate it.

Thank you.

Bill Carey  
Ward 5

Sent from my iPhone

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

2 Hour Parking at 190 Fair St.

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923104701.pdf](#)

**Tinti, Elisa**

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**From:** Worthington, Rita  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 2:18 PM  
**To:** Noble, James; Tinti, Elisa  
**Cc:** Norman, Edward; Bergquist, Diane; Timbrouck, Lynsey  
**Subject:** FW: 190 Fair St

Good Afternoon:

Unfortunately, I have not received a response back to my email of June 4th (See Below). I received another call from Linda Sumber, wife of Dr. Sumber who has a practice at 185 Fair Street. As indicated in my June 4th email, the 2-hour parking signs were removed without their knowledge.

Apparently, the practice is losing patients because there is no place to park. There is a handicapped parking sign, however because it is not designated, uptown business patrons are using it.

I am asking that this matter be placed on the June 26th Public Safety agenda as well as to be provided with a reason on why the signs were taken down. The request is that signs be placed across the street from the practice indicating 2-hour parking, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 5 pm.

I would appreciate a response.

Thank you.  
 Rita M. Worthington  
 Ward 4

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**From:** Worthington, Rita  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:34 PM  
**To:** Norman, Edward; Bergquist, Diane  
**Subject:** FW: 190 Fair St

Hi Ed and Diane:

I received a call from a Linda Sumber regarding two 2-hour parking signs that were removed at 190 Fair Street, in front of their practice. Please see Lynsey Timbrouck's email to me below.

Can you tell me why they were removed. I don't recall anything coming before council on this.

Please advise, so I can bet back to Ms. Sumber.

Thank you.  
 Rita M. Worthington  
 Ward 4

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

Handicap parking 38 Van Deusen St.

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923104711.pdf](#)

**Tinti, Elisa**

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**From:** Bergquist, Diane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019 2:58 PM  
**To:** Koop, Douglas; Morell, Jeffrey; Schabot, Steven; Scott-Childress, Reynolds; Worthington, Rita  
**Cc:** Noble, Steve; Tinti, Elisa; Norman, Edward; Coon, Ryan; Simon, Mike  
**Subject:** handicap parking at 38 Van Deusen  
**Attachments:** 38 Van Deusen St. Handicap Paring.pdf

There is still a problem with placing handicap parking at the 38 Van Deusen St. residence. There is no parking on that side of the road. It would have to be changed by an amended resolution to 35 Van Deusen across from the address listed in the attached resolution.

Diane Bergquist  
 Safety Officer  
 (845)481-7307  
 (845)331-0295 Fax  
 (845)224-6070 Cell

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

Removal of handicap parking 193 Clinton Ave.

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923105937.pdf](#)

Tinti, Elisa

---

**From:** Worthington, Rita  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 10:10 AM  
**To:** Al Crisafulli  
**Cc:** STEVEN SCHABOT; Tinti, Elisa; Noble, James  
**Subject:** RE: Handicap Parking Signs - 193 Clinton Ave

Mr. Crisafulli:

My name is Rita and I am the Alderwoman for the ward in which you reside. I will forward your request for the removal of the handicapped parking signs to the appropriate committee and request that said request be placed on the agenda.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Rita M. Worthington  
Alderwoman, Ward 4  
(845)430-2819

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Jim, Steve and Elisa:

Please be sure to include the below request on the next public safety meeting's agenda. New owner's Al and Sandy Crisafulli are requesting the removal of handicapped parking signs at 193 Clinton Avenue Street.

Thank you.

Rita M. Worthington  
Ward 4

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**From:** Wiltshire, MaryJo  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** Al Crisafulli  
**Cc:** Worthington, Rita; STEVEN SCHABOT  
**Subject:** RE: Handicap Parking Signs - 193 Clinton Ave

Mr. Crisafulli - Our department does take down and put up signs but removing the handicap signs requires legislation from the Common Council. I am copying your Alderwoman on this email so you can proceed with the request to have the signs removed. Any questions please let us know.

Mary Jo Wiltshire  
Finance and Operations Administrator  
Department of Public Works  
25 East O'Reilly St  
Kingston, NY 12401

## **Public Safety/General Government Committee Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: September 25, 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Tinti

Submitting Department: Common Council

Item Type: Proposed Resolution

Agenda Section:

---

**Subject:**

25 Mile Per Hour Speed Limit

**Suggested Action:**

**Attachments:**

[20190923110322.pdf](#)

**Tinti, Elisa**

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**From:** Scott-Childress, Reynolds  
**Sent:** Monday, July 01, 2019 8:42 AM  
**To:** Noble, James; Jim Noble  
**Cc:** Tinti, Elisa  
**Subject:** July Communication re Speed Limits  
**Attachments:** Resolution to Reduce Default Speed Limit 2019-07-01.docx

Dear President Noble,

Attached is a communication calling on the State of New York to allow the City of Kingston to establish a City-wide speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Please assign it to the committee best suited to consider it for further action.

Best wishes,  
Rennie

Reynolds J. Scott-Childress  
Alderman, Ward 3, City of Kingston  
(845) 616-3687 mobile

A Resolution Supporting the Reduction of the City-wide Default Speed Limit From 30 Miles Per Hour to 25 Miles Per Hour

WHEREAS, the observed speeds that citizens report as feeling unsafe in their communities has been shown to be less than 30 miles per hour through speed evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Federal Highway Administration methodologies recommend speed limits of 25 miles per hour or lower on the type of roadways common in the historic City of Kingston ; and

WHEREAS, a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety demonstrated that a City-wide speed limit reduction in Boston from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour resulted in lower speeds, especially in excess of 35 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, reduced speeds minimize stopping distance of vehicles and the likelihood of injury or fatality as a result of a collision with a pedestrian; and

WHEREAS, reduced speeds narrow the difference in operating speeds of vehicles and bicycles, which can improve safety for these vulnerable users of the roadway network; and

WHEREAS, lower speeds provide greater flexibility in roadway design; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in speed from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour represents an increase in travel time of only 24 seconds per mile under free flow conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1643 prohibits cities and villages from establishing area-wide speed limits below 30 miles per hour and also prohibits establishing any speed limit under 25 miles per hour on any roadway (except school zones); and

WHEREAS, in some cases, this law prevents the City from establishing appropriate speed limits based on accepted engineering practices; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the City of Kingston hereby requests that the State of New York amend Vehicle and Traffic Law Title 8, Article 38, Section 1643 to allow the City of Kingston to establish a city-wide speed limit as low as 25 miles per hour. Further, on roadways where established FHWA methodologies for establishing speed limits recommend speed limits lower than 25 miles per hour, all cities and villages should be permitted to post speed limits lower than 25 miles per hour, and be it further

RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Senator George Amadore, and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

July 21, 2019

Members of the Public Safety Committee  
Kingston Common Council  
City Hall  
Kingston, NY 12401

Dear Colleagues:

Many Kingston residents are deeply concerned at the seemingly increasing number of speeding vehicles not only on our major thoroughfares but also on our residential streets. Many of the streets in Kingston are narrow. Others quickly narrow when drivers park their vehicles along one or both sides of the street. These many situations become exceedingly dangerous when vehicles travel them at our current limit of 30 miles per hour (mph). When automobiles race down our streets they create an intolerable situation. A lower speed limit throughout the City of Kingston could significantly reduce these dangers.

A lower speed limit throughout the City of Kingston could significantly reduce these dangers. Frequently suggested solutions such as stop signs, traffic lights, speed bumps, and speed monitors can have some effect in particular circumstances. But none of these offers a comprehensive solution. In fact, some of these steps can actually make matters worse.

The single change proven to positively affect traffic safety in throughout towns like Kingston is a lower speed limit. Lower rates of speed closely correlate with improved outcomes in traffic incidents, particularly those involving pedestrians. Even a 5-mph reduction in speed has a significant effect. As Lena Groeger points out in a recent article:

[O]nce cars reach a certain speed (just above 20 mph), they rapidly become more deadly.... [A] person is about 70 percent more likely to be killed if they're struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph versus 25 mph.

In a recent study of vehicular speeds and increasing rates of injury and damage caused by automobile accidents, researchers at the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety discovered that

[T]he average risk of severe injury for a pedestrian struck by a vehicle reaches 10% at an impact speed of 16 mph, 25% at 23 mph, 50% at 31 mph, 75% at 39 mph, and 90% at 46 mph. The average risk of death for a pedestrian reaches 10% at an impact speed of 23 mph, 25% at 32 mph, 50% at 42 mph, 75% at 50 mph, and 90% at 58 mph. Risks vary significantly by age. For example, the average risk of severe injury or death for a 70-year-old pedestrian struck by a car travelling at 25 mph is similar to the risk for a 30-year-old pedestrian struck at 35 mph.

Unfortunately, the City of Kingston cannot change the speed limit within our city limits because the State of New York currently prohibits municipalities from controlling their own destinies in this regard. State law forbids minimum speed limits lower than 30 miles per hour. This is an

unfair and dangerous situation. Other states that border on New York, such as Connecticut, allow municipalities to set 25 mile-an-hour speed limits. In New York State, New York City recently petitioned the legislature and won the lower speed limits in parts of the City. The City of Ithaca is currently petitioning the State to reduce its speed limit to 25 mph. The City of Saugerties, recognizing the safety of slower speeds, has reduced the limit on several of its streets to 25 mph (see <https://ecode360.com/11103555>).

Slower speed limits save lives, reduce damage in automobile crashes, and create safer streets for automobile drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. They also create the conditions for more courteous driving in general. Once instituted, a widespread education campaign, new signage, and initial enforcement will go hand-in-hand with our efforts to create a comprehensive traffic safety plan for the City.

Kingston is fortunately experiencing increases in business, new residents, and tourist and commercial visitors. However, this boon to our community economy raises vehicular risks. Moreover, other changes should make us wary of the potential for serious accidents if we maintain our current 30 mph speed limit. For example, we are encouraging more residents to walk for health and more residents to bicycle to reduce pollution. We are also experiencing relevant demographic changes: both an increasingly aging population and growing numbers of children. Before these numbers get much higher, before we find ourselves grieving a rash of serious and even fatal accidents, it is imperative that the Common Council reconsider Kingston's citywide speed limit.

But first we must get the State to give us permission to consider the change to safer streets. The legislation under consideration tonight urges the state to give us permission to take up consideration of reducing the City-wide speed limit to 25.

Sincerely yours,

Reynolds J. Scott-Childress  
Ward 3 Alderman  
845-616-3687  
[ward3@kingston-ny.gov](mailto:ward3@kingston-ny.gov)

See for more:

Lena Groeger, Unsafe at Many Speeds (ProPublica, May 25, 2016). Available online at <https://www.propublica.org/article/unsafe-at-many-speeds>

Brian C. Tefl, Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death (AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, September 2011). Available online at <https://www.aaafoundation.org/sites/default/files/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeed.pdf>

**RESOLUTION 161 of 2019**

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK, REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW YORK ALLOW THE CITY OF KINGSTON TO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A 25 MILE PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT**

Sponsored By: Public Safety/General Gov. Committee: Alderman:  
Schabot, Ventura Morell, Koop

**WHEREAS**, the observed speeds that citizens report as feeling unsafe in their communities has been shown to be less than 30 miles per hour through speed evaluations; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal Highway Administration methodologies recommend speed limits of 25 miles per hour or lower on the type of roadways common in the historic City of Kingston; and

**WHEREAS**, a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety demonstrated that a City-wide speed limit reduction in Boston from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour resulted in lower speeds, especially in excess of 35 miles per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, reduced speeds minimize stopping distance of vehicles and the likelihood of injury or fatality as a result of a collision with a pedestrian; and

**WHEREAS**, reduced speeds narrow the difference in operating speeds of vehicles and bicycles, which can improve safety for those vulnerable users of the roadway network; and

**WHEREAS**, lower speeds provide greater flexibility in roadway design; and

**WHEREAS**, a reduction in speed from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour represents an increase in travel time of only 24 seconds per mile under free flow conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1643 prohibits cities and villages from establishing area-wide speed limits below 30 miles per hour and also prohibits establishing any speed limit under 25 miles per hour on any roadway (except school zones); and

**WHEREAS**, in some cases, this law prevents the City from establishing appropriate speed limits based on accepted engineering practices.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the City of Kingston hereby requests that the State of New York amend Vehicle and Traffic Law Title 8, Article 38, Section 1643 to allow the City of Kingston to establish a city-wide speed limit as low as 25 miles per hour.

**SECTION 2.** That on roadways where established FHWA methodologies for establishing speed limits recommend speed limits lower than 25 miles per hour, all cities and villages should be permitted to post speed limits lower than 25 miles per hour.

SECTION 3. That on roadways where established FHWA methodologies for establishing speed limits recommend speed limits lower than 25 miles per hour, all cities and villages should be permitted to post speed limits lower than 25 miles per hour.

SECTION 4. That certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Senator George Amadore, and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

SECTION 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Submitted to the Mayor this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

Approved by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elisa Tinti, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven T. Noble, Mayor

Adopted by Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019