

From: [Lauren Penrod](#)
To: [Amy E. Snider](#)
Cc: [Grant Penrod](#)
Subject: comments on proposed red zone change to Franklin St
Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 1:26:25 PM

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My husband, Grant Penrod, already emailed you some of his comments prior to the Oct 24th meeting. We live at 171 Franklin St.

I am unable to attend this week's city council meeting, but was in attendance and prepared to speak at the Oct 24th meeting. I would second those comments and add that I believe the map showing the current red zone area which was sent to residents is incorrect.

The section of Mason Street which is between the blocks of Franklin St and Ashtree Ln is not a red permit zone. There is no signage stating this, and both curbs are painted yellow (no parking). The paint is peeling and hard to see, but it is there nonetheless. Removing the red zone permits from the North side of Franklin St would therefore clog the South side even further.

Additionally, I did some quick research on the number of traffic accidents that occurred at the intersection of Franklin St and Mason St. According to treds.virginia.gov there have been 10 car accidents at that intersection, and only one of these involved alcohol. Ironically, the very day we received the first notice of proposed parking changes, there was an accident there which required police, EMS, and HFD to get one of the passengers out of the vehicle.

Please don't take away the limited parking that is currently available to us in our neighborhood.

Thank you,
Lauren Penrod

From: [Grant Penrod](#)
To: [Amy E. Snider](#)
Cc: [Lauren Penrod](#)
Subject: Proposed Parking Changes to North Side of Franklin Street
Date: Monday, October 23, 2023 3:32:56 PM

WARNING: External email. Be cautious when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Amy-

I live at 171 Franklin Street in Harrisonburg. I am writing in response to a Notice of Proposed Parking Changes that I received regarding removal of the North side of Franklin Street between S. Federal Street and S. Mason Street from the Red Zone Residential Permit Parking zone. I do not think this proposed change is a good idea. Unfortunately I am not able to attend the meeting on October 24 due to a prior arrangement. My thoughts are below, which I've tried to organize by topic:

1. There are 7 buildings on Franklin Street between S. Federal Street and S. Mason Street. 4 of those buildings are residences. Conversion of parking on the North side of Franklin Street from permitted parking to 2-hour unpermitted parking would require the residents of all 4 residences to park on the South side of the street. But there is not sufficient parking on the South side of the street for all 4 residences, who need parking for longer than 2 hours at a time.
2. The map included with the Notice indicates that Red Zone parking is currently available on the west side of S. Mason Street between Franklin Street and Ash Tree Lane. I am uncertain if that is correct. The curb on that stretch of street is painted yellow to indicate that parking is not permitted there. If the curb is incorrectly painted, parking on that stretch of street is nonetheless not safe. The intersection of Franklin and Mason Streets is the regular location of vehicle collisions. We see a few each year, including one where a vehicle collided with a bicyclist who, although wearing a helmet, suffered a serious enough injury that he was bleeding from his head and had to be taken away by ambulance. I previously received a Notice from the City that I had to relocate a bush on my property at that corner due to visibility issues. Allowing parking on the west side of S. Mason Street between Franklin Street and Ash Tree Lane would significantly reduce visibility at that intersection and very likely increase accidents. The City's recent attempts to increase signage at that intersection, while a good try, have been ineffective. The signs in the middle of the road are often being treated as targets by drivers. Unless the City puts a stoplight or 4-way Stop signs at that intersection I expect accidents to continue even if visibility is not reduced. Allowing parking on the west side of S. Mason Street between Franklin Street and Ash Tree Lane as a potential re-location for the Red Zone parking to be removed on the North side of Franklin Street would likely decrease visibility and increase accidents.
3. I believe that the proposed changes to parking on the North side of Franklin Street between S. Federal Street and S. Mason Street are related to the property at 130 Franklin Street. That property operated as an office building at that location and with the current parking arrangements since the 1990s. I believe that the current parking arrangement at that location

was the basis of the City's recent concerns about permitting a counseling office to open in that location. But changing the parking on the North side of Franklin Street from permitted parking to 2-hour unpermitted parking would of course not create more parking. It would just take available parking away from the current long-time residents and property owners to enable more customer/client parking for 130 Franklin Street. Ample 2-hour parking already exists in the neighborhood. I have been monitoring the available parking since this issue has come to light. The 2-hour parking spaces on the North side of Franklin Street between S. Main Street and S. Federal Street and the spaces in the City lot behind the Hardest-Higgins House are regularly open and available, and are less than one block from 130 Franklin Street. Additional parking is available at the lot behind City Hall and the Water Street Parking Deck, both of which are about 2-3 blocks away. While all of these parking spaces are available to the customers/clients of 130 Franklin Street, none of this limited-duration parking is useful for the residents of Franklin Street. I want to emphasize that I am not opposed to counseling office being located at 130 Franklin Street. I think that is a good and valuable business that suits the current character of the neighborhood and will provided a much-needed service to the community. I just do not agree that the parking arrangements need to be changed for a counseling office to operate at 130 Franklin Street.

In sum, please facilitate the owner of 130 Franklin Street opening their counseling office as soon as possible, but do not change the parking arrangements on Franklin Street. Thank you for your consideration.

-Grant

Grant D. Penrod, Esq.
Hoover Penrod PLC
342 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 433-2444

Jim Jenkins

166 Franklin St

Called City Manager's Office on 12/1/2023 regarding changes to Red Zone parking

Not concerned about the proposed change to remove the North side of Franklin St. from the Red Zone

Primary concern was whether it would be replaced with unrestricted parking

Supportive of the change since it is being replaced with 2-hour parking