

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL


GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

Dave Bell, Director
Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department

THRU: Council President Mary Sheffield

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: January 16, 2025

RE: Residential Parking Concerns

Our office has received numerous resident concerns via office hours, public comment, and e-mail regarding ticketing for parking on their side lots, which are currently not paved. While current policies require paved surfaces for parking, many residents feel that paving their side lots is either too costly or not practical for their specific property needs. This issue has led to complaints about the lack of affordable alternatives to comply with parking regulations.

We need to explore viable alternatives that would allow residents to park on their side lots without the requirement for expensive paving and avoid ticketing. Additionally, it would be useful to understand what other cities have done to address similar issues and whether more efficient, less costly materials and methods exist for creating suitable parking spaces.

Please work with the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department to provide a response to the following:

1. What have other cities implemented in similar situations to balance resident needs and parking regulations?
2. How do enforcement practices differ in cities with similar challenges?
3. Are there specific guidelines or materials that are acceptable for parking areas that avoid the required for full paving?
4. Please explain why the city uses cement over other materials such as: permeable paving materials, gravel grids, crushed stone, grass or turf reinforcement, etc.
5. Can we introduce a program to help residents afford paving or other modifications to meet parking requirements?

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Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison