



36

CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

REPORT

July 7, 2004

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Members of the Common Council

Re: Parking Ordinances

The Common Council Committee appointed to review parking ordinances met on June 14, 2004 at 7:30 in the Third Floor Caucus Room in City Hall. In attendance were committee members Cavo, Basso and Esposito. Also in attendance were Assistant Corporation Counsel Les Pinter, Captain Dan Mulvey of the Police Department and Council Members Seabury and Calandrino, ex-officio.

Mr. Cavo asked Mr. Seabury for an explanation of his request. Mr. Seabury stated that he received telephone calls from the Crescent Drive and Park Avenue area regarding cars parked in no parking areas. Since the Common Council has jurisdiction over parking fines he would like to strengthen the ordinance.

Attorney Pinter stated that the Common Council adjusted the fines by ordinance from a minimal amount up to \$25 or \$50. The maximum fine is \$100. This was done two years ago. Fines would be doubled if not paid within a certain timeframe. Section 19-4 was amended to list the violations and the amounts of the fines. Subsection 2 was amended by capping the fines and permitting the penalty. State statutes contain other language for infractions and general caps. Mr. Cavo asked if the \$100 limit includes the 30 days timeframe in which to pay? Could it double to \$200? Attorney Pinter said that would have to be tested. By ordinance you cannot exceed \$100.

Captain Mulvey stated that his department concentrates on moving violations. He has now been assigned an additional officer to do traffic enforcement. A few more officers are needed as the City keeps growing. In addressing the parking issue in Rogers Park, Captain Mulvey stated that in the past, beginning on Memorial Day, the City used special police officers. He believes that again using these officers, the problem can be solved. Mrs. Basso asked about parking on the grass. Captain Mulvey said that is a zoning problem and the Police Department does not have authority over it. Attorney Pinter said that as long as no parking on grass signs are posted, it could be enforced. Signage is the resolution.

Mr. Calandrino asked if the revenue from the payment of violations could be used to put more officers on this problem? Captain Mulvey said special officers are paid \$17 or \$18 per hour. They are full-fledged officers with the same training. Mr. Seabury said if we increase the fines and have specials going out, we could start to remedy the situation. Taking the fine money and putting it back into the police budget would help. Captain Mulvey agreed. Mr. Esposito said that the ordinance is in place. The problem is with enforcement. We should look into finding some money to put some extra help on in this area. Mrs. Basso said no overnight parking signs should be put up in the parks.

Mrs. Basso made a motion to change section 19-4 of the parking ordinance by increasing all \$25 fines to \$50 and to have the placement of signs in the parks by order of the Chief of Police or Traffic Authority. Seconded by Mr. Esposito. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH CAVO, Chairman

PAULINE BASSO

JOHN ESPOSITO



ORDINANCE
CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMON COUNCIL

Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

THAT Section 19-4 of the Code of Ordinances of Danbury, Connecticut is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 19-4. Penalty.

- (a) Any person violating the provisions of this Article as set forth in this subsection shall be fined in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Parking Violation</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Code Section</u>
Obstructing Sidewalks	\$50.00	19-36
25 Ft of Corner	\$50.00	19-32
On Crosswalk	\$50.00	19-56
Front of Driveway	\$50.00	19-32
Obstructing Traffic/Streets/Intersections	\$50.00	19-32
Fire Hydrant	\$50.00	19-33
Fire Zone	\$50.00	19-62
Fire Lane	\$50.00	19-62
Loading Zone	\$50.00	19-56
Snow Emergency	\$50.00	19-60
Violation of Signs	\$50.00	
Other	\$50.00	

- (b) Except as otherwise specifically set forth in subsection (a) hereof, the violation of any rule, regulation or order promulgated by the Traffic Authority of the City of Danbury shall be punishable by a fine established in accordance with State Law and as established by the Traffic Authority.

(c)

(1) Except as provided herein, any person violating any provision of this Article shall be fined not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days or both.

(2) Fines payable in accordance with subsection (a) hereof shall be remitted to the City of Danbury within seven (7) days of the issuance of a summons or citation. If any fine is not paid within seven (7) days, a penalty in an amount equal to the original fine shall immediately become due and payable in addition to the original fine.