



September 1, 2022

The Honorable Eric T. Costello,
Baltimore City Council, District 11
City Hall, Room 509
100 North Holliday St., Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: TWO MODIFICATIONS TO RPP AREA #48 (Riverside)

Delivered via email to: eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov

Councilman Costello:

At the request of Riverside Neighborhood Association's (RNA) Parking Committee Chair, Jeffrey Brown and on behalf of the RNA Board of Directors, I am writing to confirm RNA's desire to modify Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Area #48 plan in two ways.

Background

As you know, when designing our parking plan, RNA was encouraged by the Parking Authority of Baltimore City (PABC) to accommodate local businesses. We agreed, and did so by allowing up to two hours parking with no permit required in the evenings before 11:00 p.m. We have also been generous with parking passes for business owners, houses of worship, and nonprofits (such as the National Federation of the Blind) within our borders.

In February of 2021, we launched our RPP pilot under a temporary administrative regulation. Things started off well for the first month or two, likely because greater enforcement emphasis was put on our new area. However, enforcement since has been inadequate, and because of that, the plan hasn't served our community as well as it might otherwise.

For background on our enforcement issues, I attach the June 23, 2021 letter sent to you by Mr. Brown.

That letter was delivered near the end of the temporary administrative period, which RNA understood to be our opportunity to modify the plan based on the pilot results without having to canvass all residents with a new petition.

The June 2021 letter resulted in July 2021 meeting in which we (you, RNA, and PABC) agreed to wait approximately six months to see if enforcement could be improved, but it has not. You expressed your strong preference not to make legislative changes to RPP regulations once areas have been permanently adopted. However, given that RNA brought the request near the end of our pilot, and that we all wanted to see if enforcement might improve as the pandemic waned, you agreed to consider this change after the six months had elapsed. Your condition was that it be brought to a vote of the RNA membership. RNA held that vote during our June 27, 2022 general membership meeting. The changes were proposed and passed without a single objection.

Requested Modification

The modification we now seek is:

1. *Removal of the two-hour "no permit required" window during our RPP hours.*

We believe that element of our parking plan places an unmanageable enforcement burden on PABC by requiring officers to check vehicles twice, more than two hours apart, in order to issue a ticket. Based on data from DOT and general observation in the neighborhood, this wasn't happening with sufficient consistency in June of 2021, nor has it since.



Riverside
Neighborhood
Association

1501 Covington Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
RNABaltimore@gmail.com
RiversideNeighborhoodAssociation.com

2. *Start parking restrictions at 6:00 p.m. (rather than 5:00 p.m.) on Monday through Saturday; and at 2:00 p.m. (rather than 1:00 p.m.) on Sunday.*

This makes our hours consistent with the adjacent RPP Area #30 (to the West) and makes all RPP hours South of Fort Avenue the same. We believe this will reduce residents' confusion and ease enforcement.

With both changes now voted on and approved by the community, and on behalf of the RNA Board of Directors, I ask that you now proceed with the necessary steps to implement them.

Thank you for your assistance.

For the Riverside Neighborhood Association Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richards R. Badmington', written over a horizontal line.

Richards R. Badmington, President