



Staff Report

RESOLUTION PROHIBITING VEHICLES IN EXCESS OF SIX FEET IN HEIGHT FROM PARKING ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF RALSTON AVENUE BETWEEN FURLONG STREET AND EAST OF THE DAIRY BELLE DRIVEWAY AT 575 RALSTON AVENUE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

City staff received complaints regarding large vehicles parking along the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway. The large vehicles create sight distance problems for vehicle drivers exiting Furlong Street.

Background

The Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) received a complaint regarding large vehicles parking along the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway. When these vehicles are parked at this location, drivers exiting Furlong Street do not have adequate sight distance required to safely merge into the lane of traffic. The resident who submitted this complaint requested a no parking zone at this location.

Discussion

The PTSC collected information and summarized data after an investigation was made. Residents within 300-foot radius of the subject location were notified about the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting. The PTSC met with residents on April 13 and May 4 at its regularly scheduled meetings. Residents who could not attend the meetings submitted letters to express their views on the issue. At the PTSC meeting staff presented their findings and discussed options. Two residents were in favor of a no parking restriction that will affect one parking place and two residents opposed it. The residents of the adjacent apartment building who would like to retain it often use this parking place. Further discussion indicated that large size vehicles significantly impact visibility of the eastbound traffic for vehicles exiting Furlong Street. Smaller vehicles do not block the visibility of the fast-paced Ralston traffic. Therefore, prohibition of the large size vehicles should improve the visibility for drivers exiting Furlong Street and the same time not impacting the parking pattern.

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) allows local agencies to prohibit parking along street segments by either gross weight or by vehicle height. The CVC does not allow local agencies to prohibit parking by the type of vehicle (i.e. truck or passenger vehicle).

In the past, local agencies prohibited large vehicles like delivery trucks from parking on street by the gross weight. Typically the gross weight limit prohibited vehicles in excess of 3 tons (6,000 pounds). Today, there are many SUVs that exceed the 3 ton gross weight limit. In fact, the larger SUVs have a gross weight between 4 and 5 tons (8,000 to 10,000 pounds) that exceed the gross weight of many commercial delivery trucks. Therefore, it is difficult to restrict parking based upon a gross weight without penalizing owners of large SUVs who are not aware of the weight of their vehicles.

The review of the existing conditions on the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway indicate that any large vehicle, including vans and large SUVs, poses a potential of sight distance problem. City staff believes that prohibiting vehicles in excess of six feet in height will minimize problems associated with larger vehicles.

General Plan/Vision Statement

No impact.

Fiscal Impact

The City will be responsible for the installation of the appropriate signs. Costs will be paid from the existing appropriation in the FY 2006 budget for Street Maintenance.

Public Contact

Public contact included posting of City Council agenda, mailing notices to the residents within a 300-foot radius.

Recommendation

It is recommended City Council adopt a resolution prohibiting vehicles in excess of six (6) feet in height from parking on the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway.

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.

Attachments

- A. Resolution
- B. Exhibit A – Aerial of Location

Respectfully submitted,

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Director of Public Works

Maureen L. Cassingham
Interim City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT PROHIBITING VEHICLES IN EXCESS OF SIX FEET IN HEIGHT FROM PARKING ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF RALSTON AVENUE BETWEEN FURLONG STREET AND EAST OF THE DAIRY BELLE DRIVEWAY AT 575 RALSTON AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC) received a complaint regarding large vehicles parking along the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway; and,

WHEREAS, the PTSC reviewed this complaint, performed a field investigation and checked accident data; and,

WHEREAS, the PTSC notified all residents within 300-foot radius of the proposed location of the “No Parking” zone by letter and Teleminder about the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Meeting; and,

WHEREAS, the PTSC met with residents on April 13th and May 4th to discuss the issue; and,

WHEREAS, the California Vehicle Code allows local agencies to restrict vehicles parking in excess of six (6) feet in height along street segments; and,

WHEREAS, the PTSC recommends prohibiting vehicles in excess of six (6) feet in height from parking on the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway at 575 Ralston Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont prohibiting vehicles in excess of six (6) feet in height from parking on the south side of Ralston Avenue between Furlong Street and east of the Dairy Belle driveway at 575 Ralston Avenue.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on May 23, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont

EXHIBIT A

