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Info #2

**Harbour East Community Council**  
**February 4, 2010**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Harbour East Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reashor".

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

**DATE:** January 11, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Parking on Residential Streets Close to Nova Scotia Community College**

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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Item 10.2.1 raised at the December 3, 2009 meeting of the Harbour East Community Council.

A motion was passed that Harbour East Community Council request a staff report providing information on possible solutions to the issue of vehicles parking on residential side streets close to the Nova Scotia Community College.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Waterfront Campus is located off Pleasant Street adjacent the Halifax Harbour. This is a new environmentally-friendly or 'green' campus and currently has an enrollment of 2000 students. A second building is currently under construction and is scheduled to open this Fall 2010. Enrollment is expected to increase to 3000 students.

Due to its 'green' status, there is no mandate for the school to provide parking for all students/staff and alternative transportation is encouraged. Presently NSCC provides some off-street parking with shuttle service to and from the school. This is now at capacity and as a result students are parking on the neighboring side streets, Renfrew St, Chadwick Street and Cuisack Street, to name a few.

Residents are not in favor of all-day parking adjacent their properties.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff has met with NSCC staff to discuss the issue of student parking. They are aware of the parking shortage and recognize the issues the parking has created for the residents. They are currently looking to maximize alternate parking arrangements and are in the process of exploring various options.

On-street parking can be a contentious issue when there is competition for limited curb space. By default, parking is permitted on residential streets unless restrictive signs are posted. Parking is subject to any number of functional, safety, alignment and adjacent land use characteristics specific to the street. Steep hills, curves and narrow streets would be examples of where restrictions are required.

Residential streets with a width of less than 9m can accommodate parking on one side, while those with a width of more than 9m can be considered for two-sided parking. Over the past year staff has received several requests from area residents for parking restrictions on their streets and reviews of each were conducted. To date, restrictions have been installed on some sections of Renfrew Street, Chadwick Street, Mount Hope Avenue, Ragus Road and most recently, approved for Cuisack Street due to safety concerns. On a go forward basis, staff will continue to review each complaint and further restrictions may be considered, if required.

Many residents are concerned with the fact that on-street parking has compromised the safety of the motoring public. Although appreciative of the resident's concerns, and understanding of their frustration, staff remain in support of HRM's on-street parking policy which was developed to allow parking in areas where a compromise in safety is not an issue.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Any further sign installation costs would be covered under Traffic & Right of Way Services (R747) existing operating budget.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Karen MacQuarrie, Traffic Analyst, Traffic & Right of Way Services, 490-4859