

Dear Representative O'Rourke,

I am contacting you to voice my frustration with the residential parking permit policy currently in place for the Sunset Heights Neighborhood and to make known my disappointment with the solution three city employees recently suggested in response to my grievances.

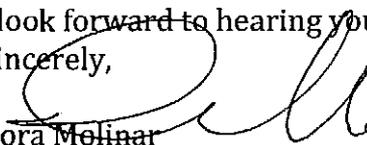
Several years ago, residents agreed to have "No Parking" signs installed around the Sunset Heights Neighborhood and to only allow vehicles with permits to park along the roadside. My parents have been residents of the neighborhood since 1993 and have received 3 parking permits each year since the policy went into effect. This year, when my mother attempted to purchase the 3 permits, she was told that she could only receive one permit because she no longer has a car registered to her address. My father passed away in 2009 and my mother is unable to drive and therefore does not have a vehicle. However, she does have 5 children as well as family friends who visit to take care of her on a daily basis. The way the policy is currently enforced does not allow for more than one person to visit her at a time without being in violation of the parking policy. It is completely unreasonable to have policies in place that dictate when and how the children and caretakers of an elderly homebound woman can visit her.

On February 1, 2011, I spoke to 3 city employees (Alonzo Soto, Keith Bennet and Ted Marcus) requesting that my mother be issued 2 additional parking permits as she has without issue in previous years. Instead of taking into account the individual situation of this resident and fulfilling this reasonable request, their suggestion was that we restrict our visits to before 8:00 am and after 6:00 pm or to park on the alley. I am absolutely appalled that these people think this suggestion is a reasonable solution. By proposing this solution, the city of El Paso is telling the members of my family that we cannot visit our homebound mother at the same time between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm during the week. The idea that anyone would think this is an acceptable solution is unbelievable.

The city employees I spoke with on February 1 all claimed they did not have authority to grant 2 additional parking permits. Mr. Marcus suggested that the City Representative would have this authority and that I should contact you to request the code be changed or a process be implemented whereby residents with extenuating circumstances could have the opportunity to apply for additional permits. I feel as though an application process for additional permits would be an acceptable solution to this problem.

I look forward to hearing your proposal for how we can resolve these concerns.

Sincerely,


Dora Molinar

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