

The purpose of this document is to explain the current laws in Mariemont concerning overnight parking on the street, and why Council is contemplating implementing a \$100 fee for stickers that allow residents to park their car on the street overnight.

Background:

An ordinance was passed in 1967, making it illegal to park on the streets in Mariemont from 1am to 6m. This rule applies to all streets in the Village, except the following 12 streets: Albert Place, Beech Street, Cambridge Avenue (from 6937 to 6973), Chestnut Street, Elm Street, Grace Avenue, Joan Place, Maple Street, Murray Avenue (between Plainville Road and Lane A), Oak Street, Plainville Road, and Sheldon Close. On these streets, overnight parking is allowed with no sticker required.

There are two other alternative ways to park on the street overnight: 1) a resident could ask for a hardship exemption by showing the police that their driveway and garage cannot accommodate all of the cars that they own. If a hardship is granted, the resident receives a sticker to put on his/her car, allowing them to park on the street overnight. The overnight parking sticker is reissued each year. 2) if a resident has someone who is visiting temporarily (including kids who are back from college), they can ask the police for a temporary permit that can last up to 90 days.

Discussion:

Council is currently contemplating charging a \$100 fee for each overnight sticker (alternative #1 above). The \$100 was based on an online search of other municipalities that charge for overnight parking on the street. The fees ranged from \$40 to \$150, with a mean of \$100.

The reason for the fee is as follows:

1. Requiring a payment helps to ensure that those people requesting a sticker truly need it. Our Police Chief has shared that keeping our streets clear of cars at night has the following safety benefits:
 - a. It makes it easier for emergency vehicles to navigate the streets and get as close as possible to a house where an emergency might be taking place.
 - b. It helps to ensure that cars parked on the street truly belong to residents who live there, and not to someone who might be casing the neighborhood.
 - c. It gives our police a clearer view of the houses in Mariemont as they are driving the streets at night, trying to keep us all safe.
2. The Village is facing a financial challenge. The last five years under the previous mayor, the Village cumulatively spent \$1.5 million more than we brought in in revenue. Moreover, the most recent budget put together by our Fiscal Office in July, 2020 projects that if we continue our current trends, the Village will run out of money in 2023. To try and address this issue, Council and the Mayor have taken several actions to reduce costs or increase revenue, including the following:
 - a. Reducing the number of people in the Tax Office from two to one, saving roughly \$75,000/year.
 - b. Having Village employees pay a portion of their health care premiums, commensurate with other neighboring communities, and also offering lower cost health care plans to choose from, saving roughly \$36,000/year.
 - c. Selling a paper street for \$50,000.
 - d. Delaying the Petoskey Road project, saving the Village \$297,000 until 2021.
 - e. Delaying the purchase of a new police car, saving \$35,000 until 2021.

- f. Increasing court costs by \$5 and increasing court fines as well.
- g. Adding a 3.5% fee for anyone using a credit card to pay the Village.
- h. Putting any surplus cash the Village might have in a money market account versus its checking account

The money raised from a fee for an overnight parking sticker is another piece in an on-going effort to address the Village's financial situation. Currently, 101 overnight parking stickers have been issued in the Village. Charging \$100/sticker would raise an additional \$10,100. So it won't solve the whole problem, but it does help to chip away at it, like many of the previous examples.

- 3. The Finance Committee is also assessing the possibility of establishing a matching grant program to create more off-street parking in Village. Per Ohio Revised Code, tax dollars cannot be used for a grant program, but fees can be. Thus, a portion of the money raised from an overnight parking sticker fee could be used for this purpose. The current thinking would be to start such a program in those parts of the Village where parking is most difficult, and then expand from there.

Concerning the enforcement of the overnight parking, the process our police follow is to always give people a warning first. If there is a repeat violation within 2-3 weeks, then the individual will be cited. However, if it has been longer than 3 weeks, then the person is typically issued another warning, and the clock starts over again.

Also, there is a perception by some that the enforcement of the overnight parking is not being applied equally throughout the Village, particularly between the north side of Wooster Pike and the south side. However, over the last 16 months, 299 warnings have been issued by the police: 152 of those have been on the north side of Wooster Pike and 147 have been issued on the south side, so a 51%/49% split.