

**SUBJECT:** Main Street Unionville Parking Restrictions

**PREPARED BY:** David Porretta, Supervisor, Traffic Operations, ext. 2040  
Paul Ingham, Director, Operations, ext. 4852

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the staff report entitled “Main Street Unionville Parking Restrictions” be received;
- 2) And that the proposed amendments to the parking restrictions on Main Street Unionville, as requested by the Unionville Business Improvement Association, not be approved;
- 3) And that the existing parking restrictions on Main Street Unionville, as specified in Schedule “C” of Parking By-law 2005-188, be maintained;
- 4) And that the Parking Control Department continue to enforce the existing parking restrictions on Main Street Unionville, as specified in Schedule “C” of Parking By-law 2005-188;
- 5) And that staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The Unionville Business Improvement Association (UBIA) has formally requested that the City relax the monthly duration of the parking restriction along the west boulevard of Main Street Unionville, between Station Lane and Carlton Road. This report does not recommend this course of action, as it would contribute to existing operational and safety concerns associated with existing parking activities on the boulevard.

**BACKGROUND:**

Through the Unionville village business district, parking is currently prohibited on the east side of Main Street at anytime throughout the year. On the west boulevard, parking is restricted from Monday to Friday, 6:00pm to 6:00am, and at any time on weekends and holidays. Currently, this restriction is in effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> only (See Attachment “A”). This restriction was approved by Council in 2005.

On April 22, 2013, the UBIA requested to General Committee that the restrictions be relaxed to facilitate boulevard parking during additional months. General Committee subsequently requested that Operations staff investigate and report back on the feasibility of modifying the restrictions such that they would be applicable from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> only. The proposed changes would effectively remove the restrictions on the west side during the months of April, May and October, allowing parking on the boulevard for an additional three months.

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**DISCUSSION:**

On June 25, 2012, Operations staff reported to General Committee regarding a safety assessment that was conducted along the west side of Main Street Unionville, between Station Lane and Carlton Road. The assessment identified that parking on the west boulevard is contributing to a number of operational and safety concerns, as outlined below.

**Parked vehicles pose a hazard to pedestrians & cyclists.**

There are physical constraints for pedestrians when vehicles are parked within the boulevard. The sidewalk width is less than the City's 1.5-metre minimum requirement and the boulevard is approximately 2.5 metres wide. These constraints are of a particular concern during business hours and on weekends when there is a significant amount of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. While this creates blockages as groups of people are forced to maneuver around each other, it often results in pedestrians walking between parked vehicles or onto the roadway to avoid such conflicts, exposing them to vehicular traffic. The frequent opening of car doors is also a significant safety hazard for pedestrians and cyclists traveling alongside parked vehicles. Cyclists may not have sufficient time to react, or may suddenly maneuver into vehicular traffic to avoid a collision.

**Minimum sightline visibility requirements at driveways are compromised.**

There are a number of private driveways on the west side of Main Street that provide access to properties and private parking. When vehicles exit these laneways, there are significant sightline visibility constraints when parked vehicles are present on the boulevard. This poses a safety concern for both pedestrians and vehicles, as a vehicle would need to be positioned in such a way that the driver can look for approaching traffic on Main Street. This would effectively result in the vehicle blocking the sidewalk and partially obstructing the roadway, thereby impeding traffic and possibly risking a collision.

**Boulevard parking activity is causing damage to City assets.**

City assets (streetlights, sign posts, waste receptacles, planters, bollards) currently installed within the boulevard are often damaged due to vehicle impacts, requiring servicing and/or replacement. Because these incidents often go unreported, the City is unable to submit any claims to recoup costs associated with repairs and/or replacements of the damaged assets.

**Recommendations.**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Council resolved that, in principle, parking continue to be accommodated on the west boulevard and that existing time-based restrictions be maintained. Further, Operations Department was requested to strategically provide "no parking" signs and planters on the boulevard adjacent to the driveways. While this does improve sightline visibility constraints at the driveways, it does not mitigate pedestrian/cyclist safety concerns or damages to City assets within the boulevard.

Allowing parking on the west boulevard for an additional three-month period will not resolve the aforementioned issues. Additionally, increasing the duration of the parking activity will increase the frequency of such incidents over the course of a year. While prohibiting parking at anytime on the west boulevard would resolve the operational & safety concerns, Council recognizes the importance of providing boulevard parking for the local businesses. Therefore, staff recommends that the existing restrictions continue to be maintained from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

Not applicable.

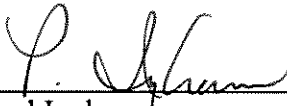
**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

This report aligns with the community safety component of the transportation/transit strategic priority.

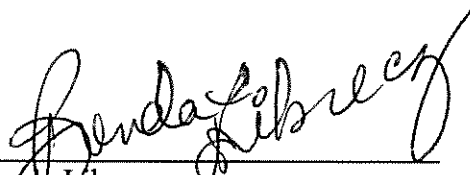
**DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**



Paul Ingham,  
Director, Operations



Brenda Librecz,  
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Main Street Unionville Parking Restrictions (Map)