
From: Mike McClelland
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 11:03 PM
To: CityClerks
Cc: Tara McArthur
Subject: Staff Report RPF014-16 : Parking proposal for Berczy Street

I have a concern regarding parking proposals for Berczy Street; I direct interest in this issue.

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I understand that there are changes being proposed to alter the existing no-parking restriction between Collier and Amelia on Berczy. My overriding concern is that vehicles parked on the steep portions of Berczy in winter months pose a serious risk. I have experienced this risk on several occasions while driving on Berczy, once sliding out-of-control down from Amelia to Collier on ice (late Jan 2013). On several occasions I have got stuck in unexpected snow squalls half way up Berczy from Collier and had to reverse, sliding perilously past cars parked on the East side.

So my primary concern is one of safety, not out of NIMBY-ism. I have actually experienced the hazards that the Berczy hill presents in the winter months and they are potentially lethal.

As I recall, it was shortly after my neighbours and I expressed our concerns several years ago about the hazards of parking on that steep gradient, particularly during winter months, that the no-parking rule was introduced. Those hazards of winter have not changed in the intervening years. The only change I foresee is increased traffic to and from the residences and offices in the new Collier Centre at Mulcaster & Worsley. The effect of the increased traffic along Worsley is only likely to add to the hazards on Berczy and Poyntz, both very steep hills.

However, as a general concern it does seem strange that the City is disposing of parking lots in the downtown core while increasing on-street parking on residential streets like Berczy; is this sound practice? And I also wonder if anyone from the Committee is aware how narrow Berczy Street becomes during winter when a snow bank on the East side narrows the road making it a tight fit for 2 vehicles to pass. If cars are allowed to park then it effectively renders Berczy a one-way street. Is this the Committee's intention?

So I see the proposal to reinstate parking on the East side of Berczy between Collier and Amelia as a retrograde step. The fact that a 3-hour restriction is proposed makes little difference; the hazard is increased whether the parking is for 3 hours or 3 minutes.

I want to emphasize that this is not a matter of inconvenience or street aesthetics; it is a significant SAFETY issue. Berczy has been much safer since the no-parking restriction was introduced in Dec 2014, and residents have reiterated this in response to various City surveys since then.

Please don't undo your good work; put safety first!

Mike McClelland