



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

FEBRUARY 12, 2024 4:15 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Karen L. White, Canneth Lee, Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Sheila Niezgodski and Citizen Member Amika Micou

Committee Members Absent:

Other Council Present: Rachel Tomas Morgan, Dr. Oliver Davis, Troy Warner, Sherry Bolden-Simpson

Others Present: Bianca L. Tirado, Danica Kulemeka, Elivet Quijada-Navarro, Victoria Stowell, Jenna Throw

Presenters: Caleb Baur, Liz Maradik

Agenda: Organizational Meeting
Update- Neighborhood Health & Housing, Department of Community Investment

Committee Chair Karen L. White called to order the Residential Neighborhoods meeting at 4:22p.m. She gave a brief overview of the agenda and then proceeded to the Organizational Meeting.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=380566>

Organizational Meeting

Chair White gave Committee Members the 2023 Residential Neighborhood reports for reference. Chair White said another meeting will be scheduled to plan and outline objectives for 2024.

Chair White then asked Committee members if they had any questions about the organizational meeting or the 2023 report.

Update- Neighborhood Health & Housing, Department of Community Investment

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Chair White brought forward this update from the Administration's Department of Community Investment. The issue of lawn parking, illegal parking and blocking alleys was raised by Citizen Members in 2023. This is the first (1) of three (3) planned meetings on the topic.

Caleb Baur, Director of Community Investment, with offices on the 14th Floor of the County-City Building and Liz Maradik, Chief Neighborhoods Officer, with offices on the 13th Floor both presented.

Liz Maradik, gave a brief explanation of the structure of the office of Community Investment, explaining the five (5) divisions: Growth & Opportunity, Engagement & Economic Empowerment, Neighborhoods, Planning & Community Resources and Sustainability. As Chief Neighborhoods Officer, she oversees the Neighborhoods division. This division is broken down into four (4) sub-teams: Federal Grants Management, South Bend Animal Resource Center, Neighborhood Health & Housing and Neighborhood Services and Enforcement Team.

Liz Maradik, discussed the various inspectors in the Neighborhood Department. Environmental Inspectors, handle all quality-of-life ordinance enforcement including parking violations and abandoned vehicles. Per the Ordinance, a vehicle must be deemed abandoned. A vehicle can be deemed abandoned if: it is located on public property illegally, it's a hazard or obstruction on a right of way, it's located on private property without owner's consent for more than forty-eight (48) hours, its partially dismantled on public property, its over three (3) years old and its mechanically inoperable on private property for more than twenty (20) days, or it's located on public property without a license plate.

If a vehicle is deemed abandoned, they will be tagged to establish a timeframe for removal. A red tag for vehicles on public property which is a three-day (3) timeframe. For private properties it's a yellow tag in which twenty (20) days needs to be given. After the timeframe an inspector will go out to the area to see if the vehicle remains in the area unmoved; if the vehicle is not moved it will be towed by a private tow company.

The inspectors also handle various parking violations including vacant lot parking, lawn parking, parking on sidewalks, blocking alleys, parking within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant, improper storage, and parking commercial vehicles in a residential zone. Generally, a warning notice is provided to set a timeframe to correct the violation. Once the timeframe passes an inspector will reinspect to determine if the same vehicle remains in violation. If the same vehicle is still in violation a ticket is issued; every day is a new violation and tickets are issued weekly until resolved. Under the current ordinance, the City does not have the authority to tow a vehicle for parking violations. If a vehicle is a safety risk or hazard it is referred to the police department for evaluation and potentially tow. If the owner fails to address violation tickets and fines will be sent to collections and continued non-compliance it can be escalated to the Legal Department.

Chair White thanked the presenters and then moved for questions from the Committee members.



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Councilwomen Niezgodski requested the number of inspectors for the RSVP and Environmental inspectors.

Liz Maradik explained that there's four (4) positions for RSVP, two (2) are filled. There are six (6) Environmental inspectors.

Councilwomen Niezgodski asked for clarification on lawn parking and what the timeframe of the warning and if they keep repeating it what is the process of giving them a fine if they keep gaming the system.

Liz Maradik stated that inspectors have a dedicated area. So they know the area well and if someone continues to park on their lawn after a warning then they can issue a ticket.

Councilwomen Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers requested an explanation of the process of inspection of lawn parking if the issue only occurs in the evenings.

Liz Maradik stated that there is no enforcement after hours.

Councilwomen Gooden-Rodgers asked if someone was blocking an alley after hours what would happen.

Liz Maradik stated that police department can be involved in that and can tow in those circumstance.

Councilwomen Gooden-Rodgers asked if they patrol or if its only complaints.

Ms. Maradik explained that its both.

Chair White asked if there were any other questions from Committee members and then opened it to Council members.

President McBride had a follow up on Councilwomen Gooden-Rodgers question. She detailed a complaint in the third (3rd) district that had been occurring for years without resolution.

Liz Maradik stated that if the vehicle make is at least three years old and inoperable then they can tag them and then after twenty (20) days they can be towed. For vehicles parked on grass

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the statute dictating what Environmental Inspectors can do depends on if the vehicle is in the front yard or backyard and if the vehicle is operatable.

President McBride stated that she will follow up with the addresses to Liz Maradik.

Chair White stated that the committee had run out of its allotted time but that this will continue into the next meeting.

With no further business, Chair Karen L. White adjourned the Community Investment Committee meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen L. White".

Karen L. White, Committee Chair

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