

October 14, 2013

Dear Ms. Stearns,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Jewell Street parking request. I am writing to respond to that letter and to inform you that I have set in motion a different approach for this item at the November commission meeting, with an explanation of why, and how it will proceed.

The Jewell Street area is unlike the majority residential parking program areas that Public Works serves throughout the City. But in an effort to find a solution to your original request, we treated your petition exactly as we treat others, by sending out a survey of interest. The difference is, that most residential streets that have opted into the program, have many homes and eyes on the street, and are well aware of the parking problem, usually caused by a large business or a collection of businesses, or by schools or the University. Employees, customers, teachers, and students converge on parking resources in neighborhoods where there is limited supply, and this triggers a request for permit parking. When we send out surveys for these sorts of parking issues, there are always some that are not returned, but by and large, the residents are for or against a permit program, and they respond accordingly, and the majority are returned.

The initial survey for the Jewell Street Opt-In to the Eastside Residential Permit Program did not yield the results that are typically needed for implementation, however given the unique conditions of this particular request, we have decided to view the results as inconclusive, and take a different tack as allowed by Ordinance. The Municipal Ordinance (10.41.040) allows the Public Works Department to choose to refer a permit request to the Transportation and Public Works Commission (TPWC) for review, allowing the TPWC to decide the outcome. We have decided, that rather than denying the request or resurveying the residents, to bring this issue directly to the Transportation and Public Works Commission at their November 18, 2013 meeting for a public review of the program request.

Public Works staff will notify residents within the proposed permit area about the public review at the TPWC meeting by mail, with information about the permit program and the request for inclusion in the program. The TPWC will have the authority to consider public input, review and approve or deny implementation of permit parking on Jewell Street (appealable to City Council as outlined in Chapter 1.16 of the Muni Code).

Sincerely,

Marlin Granlund
Parking Program Manager
420-5184
mgranlund@cityofsantacruz.com