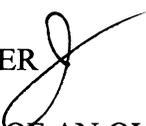


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE CREATION OF AN OVERNIGHT PARKING DISTRICT IN VARSITY PARK

ISSUE: City Council consideration of adoption of an overnight parking district in the Varsity Park neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve an overnight parking district, District A, in the Varsity Park neighborhood as shown in the Attachment.

BACKGROUND: Several communities within the City are experiencing quality of life issues resulting from overflow parking of nearby apartment and condominium complexes. At the April 16, 2005, City Council public hearing meeting, Council passed an ordinance to amend the Parking Permit Districts section of the City Code by adding a new Section 5-8-82 (*Restricted Overnight Parking Districts*). The purpose of this ordinance is to address quality of life issues, such as littering, noise pollution, blocked driveways, and speeding traffic created by overflow parking from multi-residential complexes.

The Varsity Park neighborhood has requested that their community be considered for an overnight parking district. Staff reviewed the request and determined that the neighborhood meets the requirements recently established in the City Code for implementation of an overnight parking district. Specifically, the following were met:

1. All property within the proposed district is zoned for residential use;
2. There are no properties that are included within a residential permit parking district;
3. There are a minimum of 200 on-street parking spaces;
4. The residents submitted a petition signed by over 66 and 2/3 percent of the residents abutting each block face in the proposed district;
5. A survey was conducted and found that over 25 percent of the vehicles parked within the proposed district did not display a valid City of Alexandria license plate or windshield tag or decal; and
6. The Traffic and Parking Board conducted a hearing on April 25, 2005 and voted to recommend approval of the district to City Council.

DISCUSSION: Varsity Park will be the first neighborhood to have an overnight parking district. Although the proposed district is not expected to entirely eliminate overflow parking, the proposed district is expected to address many of the quality of life issues associated with overflow parking by reducing the number of outside vehicles parking in a community at night. The affected streets are shown within the banded area on the attached map.

Once created, the overnight parking district will restrict parking between midnight and 6:00 a.m. to only those vehicles displaying a current City of Alexandria vehicle registration decal. Specifically, Section 5-8-82 *Restricted Overnight Parking Districts* of the City Code states the following:

- (a) Prohibited parking. It shall be unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle within any block face which is posted with one or more restricted overnight parking district signs contrary to any of the conditions set forth on the sign, unless the vehicle displays a valid City of Alexandria license plate, windshield tag or decal issued pursuant to Section 3-2-321, *et seq.*, of this code, or guest or visitor permit issued pursuant to this section; and
- (b) Parking restrictions. Restricted overnight parking district signs shall prohibit parking by motor vehicles which do not display a valid City of Alexandria license plate, windshield tag or decal issued pursuant to Section 3-2-321, *et seq.*, of this code, or a guest or visitor permit issued pursuant to this section, during the posted overnight hours between 12 midnight and 6:00 a.m. the following morning. As used in this section, parking means the stopping or standing of a motor vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading and unloading of the vehicle.

Residents who have overnight guests may obtain temporary permits for visitors' vehicles from the City's Finance Department Treasury Division during normal business hours. The visitor permit is valid for a maximum of 30 days at a cost of \$5.00 per permit. The visitors' permit is not renewable, and no more than two visitors' permits will be issued to the same residence at the same time.

Since this is the first overnight parking district to be created, several tasks, such as developing and printing visitors permits and signs, will need to be completed before the district can be posted. Consequently, the Varsity Park district may not be posted for several weeks once approved. Existing parking signs will be reviewed and coordinated in concert with the new parking district.

FISCAL IMPACT: Sign fabrication is estimated to cost under \$1,500 for each parking district, with annual maintenance costs of approximately \$350 per district. After discussions with the Police Department, it is not anticipated that additional staff will be needed to enforce the parking regulations, as enforcement calls are already coming in to the Police Department on this issue. Staff will monitor the number of complaints that parking enforcement officers respond to

compared to the current volume of complaints and responses. If the public follows the regulations posted on the parking district signs, it is very possible that the number of complaints could decrease.

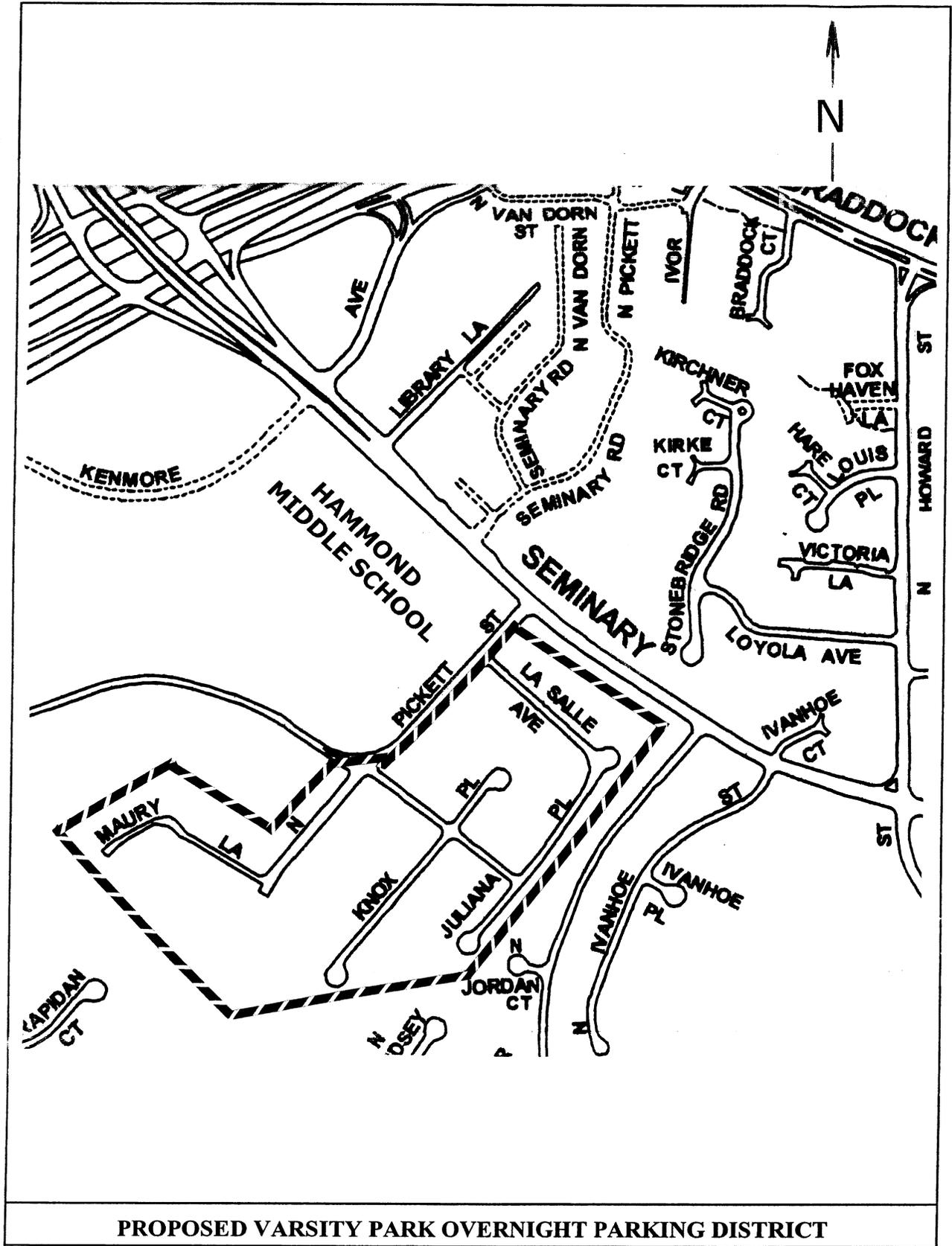
ATTACHMENT: Map of proposed overnight parking district

STAFF:

Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

Lieutenant Paul Story, APD

Dan Neckel, Director of Finance



PROPOSED VARSITY PARK OVERNIGHT PARKING DISTRICT