



# City of Racine

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
www.cityofracine.org

## Meeting Minutes - Final Traffic Commission

*Chairman Jim Kaplan  
Nicole Larsen  
Charles French  
John Heckenlively  
Mark Yehlen  
Dave Wohlgemuth  
Robert Mozol*

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Monday, May 19, 2014

4:00 PM

City Hall, Room 106

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### Call To Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M.*

**PRESENT:** 6 - Charles French, John Heckenlively, Mark Yehlen, Dave Wohlgemuth, Robert Mozol and Jim Kaplan

**EXCUSED:** 1 - Nicole Larsen

Also Present: John Rooney, Alderman Perez, Alderman Kaprelian-Becker, Alderman Weidner, Nikki Aiello

### Approval of Minutes for the April 21, 2014 Meeting

*The minutes of the April 21, 2014 meeting were approved as printed.*

### New Business

1. [13-9598](#) **Subject:** (Direct Referral) Communication from Chief Howell, on behalf of Alderman Perez, requesting a traffic study be done on Cleveland Avenue, near Fratt Elementary School (3501 Kinzie Avenue).

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 12-16-13:** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-21-14:** Defer

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 05-19-14:** Approve the recommended school signage changes.

**Fiscal Note:** The estimated cost of this signage will result in an installation cost of \$200.00 and an annual maintenance cost of \$80.00.

*Alderman Perez appeared before the Commission and indicated some safety issues he saw and observed around Fratt Elementary School. He requested some signage*

changes be made and suggested making Cleveland Avenue a temporary one-way during arrival and dismissal to improve safety and traffic flow.

John Rooney distributed a study performed by the Engineering Department. He noted the observations were a lot of the parents did not comply with the existing signage. He noted many parents left their cars unattended in loading zones and walked their children into school at arrival and walked to school to bring them to the car at dismissal. He noted this created little turnover in the loading zone areas and clogged the street up with school parent vehicles during arrival and dismissal. He also noted the bus stop location at the north end of Cleveland, on the east side of the street, was not properly signed for buses only and some vehicles were pulling into that area as well to pick up and drop off children or leave the vehicle unattended. He indicated the parking restrictions on the north side of the school, which are on the south side of Kinzie, between Cleveland and Arthur, and on the west side of Arthur, from Kinzie to approximately 400' south are marked as "No standing, stopping or parking" for buses. He noted those could be switched over to loading zones to free up extra space for parents to come in to load and unload children.

Alderman Perez noted the school children only exit on the west side of the building. Those locations would be on the north or east side of the building.

Charlie French noted that all we could do was provide places for those parents to load and unload children, and if the school wants to decide to let them out at other access points in the school, it would be up to them, but he agreed this would free up a lot of the vehicles stopping in the middle of the street.

John Rooney also described many "Y" turns that were being made due to vehicles stopping in the right-of-way. He also noted during the winter the road narrows and a lot of the vehicles parked even closer to the middle of the street, if children are to access the vehicles from the passenger side.

In response to a question by Chairman Kaplan, John Rooney noted it was impractical to make the street a one-way street, even temporarily for certain times of the day.

After further discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Wohlgemuth to approve the recommendation of the Traffic Engineer to modify the bus stop signage and install loading zones on the north and east side of the school as described. Passed unanimously.

#### **Recommended For Approval**

2. [14-10102](#)

**Subject:** Communication from the Alderman of the 12th District requesting a traffic study for the traffic signal at Washington and Ohio.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 05-19-14:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

Alderman Perez appeared before the Commission and indicated he believes the left-turn arrow should come up at all times at the signalized intersection of Washington and Ohio. He noted from his own experience and from complaints from others, many times vehicles are in the left-turn bay and don't get the left-turn arrow.

John Rooney noted the signal is fully actuated in response to the demand of the users of that intersection. He noted left-turners queued in the left-turn bay will get a

protective left-turn arrow if there are enough vehicles to call for that phase. He stated generally three or more vehicles queued up in the left-turn bay will provide a call to the traffic controller to provide that phase, to clear that queue of vehicles out before the opposing traffic is allowed to continue. He noted for only one or two vehicles stopped in the left-turn bay, the left-turn arrow is not actuated and those vehicles should proceed into the intersection waiting for the first available gap in traffic to make a left turn or wait until the phase changes and make their movement after the traffic signals go from amber to all red.

Alderman Perez asked Lt. Wohlgemuth if it was illegal to be waiting in the middle of an intersection to make a left turn.

Lt. Wohlgemuth answered it is perfectly legal for a vehicle to extend into the intersection to wait to make a left turn.

John Rooney noted that bringing up the left-turn phase on all the approaches would create an incredible delay on other approaches. He noted there are only so many seconds in a signal cycle and the appropriate amount of time needs to be allotted to each phase to make traffic move in all four directions. He noted this would create unnecessary queues and delays on all of the other approaches and recommended that this not be done at this signalized intersection.

After further discussion, a motion was made by French, seconded by Wohlgemuth to receive and file the request. Passed unanimously.

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

3. [14-9924](#)

**Subject:** Communication from Alderman Kaprelian-Becker, on behalf of Nikki Aiello (1528 W. 6th St.) requesting a traffic study for the intersection of West 6th Street and Memorial Drive for a possible left-turn light on W. 6th St. turning north.

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 04-21-14:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

**Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee on 5-12-14:** Referred to the Traffic Commission.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

**Recommendation of the Traffic Commission on 05-19-14:** Receive and file.

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

Alderman Kaprelian-Becker appeared before the Commission and wanted to know why the traffic study was received and filed at the last meeting.

John Rooney explained the request was for the investigation of providing a left-turn phase at the signalized intersection on W. 6th Street and Memorial Drive where they

currently don't exist. He noted he went through that study with the Traffic Commission last month and explained why they are only required on two of the four approaches of that intersection. He noted that Nikki Aiello was present at the last Traffic Commission meeting and explained the request was really about pedestrian safety and issues with vehicles vs. pedestrian accidents. He stated he did not have any information regarding that at the last meeting and that item seemed to be separate from trying to determine whether additional left-turn arrows are needed at this location, so the recommendation by the Traffic Commission was to receive and file the request. He noted he was going to gather some information on pedestrian and vehicular accidents at the signalized intersection, share that data with RPD and bring that item back in the future to the Traffic Commission to go over what issues there are regarding pedestrian safety and what actions can be taken to mitigate that if they are needed. He noted he would put copies of the study for the left-turn arrows in the aldermanic boxes for Aldermen Weidner and Kaprelian-Becker.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Heckenlively, seconded by Yehlen to receive and file the request. Passed unanimously.

**Recommended to be Received and Filed**

**Next Meeting Date - June 16, 2014**

**Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:06 P.M.*

**If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact the Department of Public Works, 636-9122, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.**