

Jon Sillari

Fri 2/18/2022 1:39 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

I am a resident of Somerville and manage three buildings that are greatly affected by this. Two commercial tenants believe this could close their businesses. While residents in the buildings are outraged they weren't included in any part of the conversation.

The city is doing this because they decided to remove the parking garage from the high school. When residents voted to approve the high school they were told the garage would be part of the design. Clearly along highland Ave and around the high school parking is increasingly scarce. Why should the burden fall on the residents and tax payers?

This was never an alternative option and received no input from the community it most affects. Once again the Traffic commission, Justin Schroeder and Brad Rawson used the cover of covid to push unwanted and untested ideas. This has become a familiar theme in the City I call home.

I hope the city will open this conversation up to the whole neighborhood and include the teachers whom have been thrust in the middle of the problem.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 24th.

Sincerely,
Jon Sillari

jose carvalho

Sat 2/19/2022 9:20 AM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Sent from my iPhone

Adam Harbaugh

Sat 2/19/2022 10:08 AM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

I have small children and Highland Avenue has become a rather dangerous area with commuters not respecting local traffic patterns and an immense increase in the density of cars circulating caused by competition for parking as a result of the elimination of spaces for residents.

Events at the high school are starting to build up creating yet another layer of traffic jams in the evening. And in April when street sweeping returns the entirety of Highland Avenue will be unparkable on Sundays into Mondays and Tuesdays into Wednesdays.

The “previous administration” made this decision, but this is exactly what you get when you don’t listen to the people who actually have to live with the day-to-day ramifications. If you resided here, you would want this fixed too.

Adam Harbaugh
42 Highland Ave.

DAVI MATTOS

Sat 2/19/2022 12:37 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Sent from my iPhone

George Schneeloch

Sun 2/20/2022 1:53 AM

To:

- **Transportation**

Hi Traffic Board,

I live a five minute walk away from City Hall and have lived here for 11 years now. I support allowing teachers to park near the High School on Highland Ave so that they can get to work on time and with as minimal stress as possible.

There has been some controversy with the lack of a parking garage in the new high school. I strongly feel that it was the right decision to eliminate it from the plans because it would have added upwards of \$50 million to the cost, money that could be better spent elsewhere, for example on affordable housing or other needs. But this and other projects will make parking a bit harder to find in the area.

There will be a new GLX station soon and the residents in my neighborhood will have an unusual variety of multimodal options like the bike path, protected bike lanes both on the top and bottom of the hill, and frequent service from the GLX station to get where they need to go. There is also existing service from the 88 and 90 which already connect to the Green and Red lines.

However many teachers do not live in a place with convenient or cheap access to the T or in easy biking distance, and so they will need to drive to work and park. It makes sense to allocate on-street parking for their needs. I fully support this pilot and hope it becomes permanent, and that the City support the mobility needs of teachers on a long term basis.

Thanks,

-George Schneeloch

81 School St #1, Somerville

Daniellemangelillo

Sun 2/20/2022 6:36 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Thanks,
Danielle Angelillo

Sent from my iPhone

Stephanie Galaitsi

Sun 2/20/2022 9:33 PM

To:

- **Transportation**

Dear Traffic Board,

As I write this email, I can glance out my window to see a car that has been parked in the same spot across from my house since the snow emergency on Friday, January 28.

Somerville has limited space, and we need to maximize its usefulness. Spaces dedicated to teachers are spaces that turn over, and are used by people who actually need their cars for their livelihoods. This is contrasted to the cars that stay on the street for weeks (months?) at a time. Cheap residential parking in Somerville (which I realize is not the topic of discussion right now) has created a system with tons of demand, but that doesn't go away if you just ignore it. We need to support our teachers. And yes, we need to give them other options too, and manage parking demand in general, but while we're working on that, the teachers deserve space in this city. Please support this policy, and give the teachers these dedicated spaces, at least for now.

Stephanie

dtdtrash

Mon 2/21/2022 10:09 PM

To:

Cc:

My name is Don Davis. I'm 66 years old. I live with my children at 148 School St, across from SHS' old West entrance. I've owned my home here for 25 years. I pay my taxes, and I vote in the municipal elections.

Summary:

I feel the parking shortage more keenly than some others here do, because my house has no off-street parking. I have one car, a compact sedan. But, the problem isn't just the teacher's parking lot. The city has systematically neglected our neighborhood (School, Madison, & Montrose Sts.) for nearly 20 years, and this parking mistake is just one more instance of that neglect.

I was dismayed when Mayor Cartoonie decided to build an athletic field here, with the result that the SHS teachers would have to park in our neighborhood. That decision was typical of that mayor's apathy about our neighborhood. Ironically, though his anti-car policies made it harder for us to drive and to park, he allocated to himself a specially-posted parking space in SHS' West End lot.

Earlier Mistreatment:

When I bought my house in 1998, an attractive feature of the neighborhood was a half-acre pocket park between School St, the rail trench, and the teachers' parking lot. The little park had a cluster of trees in the middle, a row of ornamental flowering trees at the uphill margin, and a band of trees along the downhill margin. Until 2004, the Buonomo & Gay administrations maintained the park well, with regular mowing of the park's grass.

- **Transportation**

- Don@mit.edu

During & after the reconstruction of the School St. bridge (early 2000s), the state's contractor used the pocket park to store construction equipment, and in the end, the contractor left the park in poor condition. None of this was the city's fault, except perhaps the failure to get the state & the contractor to restore the park to its former condition.

But from the mid zeroes on, the city neglected the park so that it was systematically destroyed. We neighbors regret the loss.

When the bridge contractor finally left the park, we asked the Mayor's office to restore the park. Remarkably though, the mayor's office had an inane plan to make the land into a sort of wetland. So, a new contractor buried the park's grass under a pair of "catchment" berms, and planted the berms with "water-loving" plants. These plants would supposedly be watered by runoff from the teachers' parking lot, but the mayor's landscape architect didn't know that the parking lot's runoff all ran into storm sewers, so there was no extra runoff for the plants to catch.

For one summer, DPW sent a water truck to spray the berms, but the special plantings died anyway. Then, because the berms weren't mowable, the city sowed "wildflower seed," intending to cover the berms' bare soil. But, with that seeding, the DPW inadvertently planted the now-ruined park with ragweed, so my wife and our neighbors started having miserable summers, thanks to the city's ineptitude and neglect.

No, I'm not making this up. The city deliberately planted half an acre of ragweed, across the street from our houses. And yes, there's more.

Over the following years, the park deteriorated into a slum-worthy vacant lot, overgrown with chest-tall brambles and weeds, and littered with

trash, a shopping cart, a rotten mattress, and other debris. City officials paid no attention to this eyesore, perhaps because the mayor couldn't see the mess from his office.

One winter in the early teens, DPW decided to spread a 2" layer of road salt along the uphill margin of the former park's lot. They also cut down the ornamental flowering pear trees. DPW did all this, so as to make a temporary, unpaved driveway, running from School St to the north wall of the high school.

The reason for the 2" of road salt was that the DPW crew wanted to stabilize the frozen soil above the slope, and somehow they didn't realize that the salt would actually thaw and destabilize the soil. Apparently, DPW chose rock salt instead of gravel, just because it was cheaper.

The mayor & DPW refused to remove the salt, until a local newspaper published a story about this. But it was too late. Nothing has grown on that 8' x 100' strip of land, since that winter. As a symbol, it looks pretty bad, because traditionally, salting the soil has always been a potent act of oppression and hatred. What kind of government does this to their own population?

In sum, our neighborhood's deliberately-worsened parking is just one more harmful decision, in a 16-year pattern of arrogant and misguided city decisions, that have systematically degraded our neighborhood's quality of life. Please stop doing these things to us, and please rebuild the teacher's parking lot.

- Don Davis
148 School St.
(857)259-7101
don@mit.edu

Gisselle Velez

Tue 2/22/2022 9:29 AM

To:

- **Transportation**

Good morning,

I am reaching out to express my concern over the parking at Highland Avenue as a resident and mother of a toddler. I am unable to attend the hearing and thus I am sharing my concerns by email.

Right now, residents cannot park between 7am and 9am on weekdays in approx 50 spots around the high school on Highland, Walnut and School streets. The 7am-9am time frame is not compatible with the morning turnover of residents leaving and teachers arriving. I live across from the high school and I rarely see teachers coming in at 7am. I would also like to point out that school is in session approx 180 days a year yet these spots are year-round. So this week when school is closed for Feb vacation week, residents cannot park there unless they plan to move their car by 7am or risk getting a ticket. Despite designating these 50 parking spots to teachers and staff, non-Somerville resident teachers and city staff still have permits to park all over the neighborhood, further encouraging driving and clogging up our neighborhood with their cars. Also, 8 resident spots will be removed in front of the Central library to install meters. Furthermore, the current street cleaning schedule is in place with no plans to change it. So starting April 1 everyone on Highland will need to park on side streets on Sunday night since the odd side of Highland won't be available because of these new parking restrictions. And what happens when street cleaning falls on a Monday on the side streets? I would also like to note that the Traffic Commission voted on this on November 18, 2021 with little community input. This solution was not proposed by the city when public discussions were held back in 2018/2019 on what to do about employee parking and parking alternatives. The city did not exhaust all the solutions they proposed like blue bikes, public transit, satellite lots, encouraging walking, bike, carpooling. When school resumed, teachers complained about not having parking and the Traffic Commission proposed and voted on designating these 50 spots with no public notification.

I have had to carry my son in the snow, walked to my house with a broken ankle, after surgeries, etc. Having parking close to our house is critical and that is if you ignore the poor traffic management of this area and reckless drivers that make this unsafe. This is a big issue that is only going to get worse with the current constructions, expansions and additional traffic we see in this area.

Best,

Gisselle Velez-Ruiz

42 H

Joseph Walberg

Tue 2/22/2022 4:47 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

I moved here 6 months ago for work. I am concerned about the lack of parking in the back streets in the neighborhood. It is already overcrowded with the students that park there on school days. Snow emergencies exacerbate the issue further.

I do not think the residents of the area should be forced to give up already scarce parking spots because the city did not put parking for the staff of the 230 million dollar school in the budget. Another solution should be made. One that benefits the staff, as I sympathize with their needs for parking, and the residents. This is not that solution.

Thank you for your time reading this email

Best regards,

Joseph Walberg

Ben Ewen-Campen
Sun 2/20/2022 10:04 AM
To:

- **Transportation**

Dear Honorable Members of the Traffic Board,

Thank you for this opportunity to write support for the Traffic Commission's recent vote to create a number of dedicated Teacher and Staff parking spots on Highland, Walnut, and School St.

This is not a letter of support that I enjoy writing, because the clear fact is that many of the constituents I represent, particularly those who live on Highland Ave., are vehemently opposed to this parking change, and I certainly understand their position. Many of these residents do not have off-street parking, and have been dealing with increasingly tight parking challenges for years. And in particular, since the removal of a large number of parking spots on the High School concourse, coupled with the ongoing construction contractor parking for the High School, the GLX, and the new playground, the long-standing parking challenges have gotten much more acute and frustrating.

Along with many of my colleagues, I have consistently believed, and continue to believe, that it was an utter mistake not to build a new parking structure for teachers, city staff, and library staff and patrons, and that the current frustration was predictable. Even with four years to plan, when the High School did open last year, I heard an outpouring of frustration about a lack of parking from both residents and teachers throughout the surrounding neighborhood (where I also live, and witnessed first-hand on a daily basis.)

That said, the simple fact is that a parking garage was not built, and we need to deal with the reality before us. The vote not to include such a parking structure was taken in 2017, before I was elected to the City Council, and there's no value in wishing it were otherwise. While we all wish it was possible for more of us not to drive, the truth is that many teachers and many residents do not currently have a good alternative, and these conflicting needs must be balanced.

The current plan to designate some teacher/staff parking spots on Highland, Walnut, and School, which was approved by the Traffic Commission late last year on a one-year pilot basis, is a reasonable and good faith effort to balance the parking needs of residents, teachers, library visitors, visitors to the Faulkner Towers senior building, and city workers. The plan does not create any new spaces, but it attempts to create some predictability for both teachers and residents - by encouraging teachers to park in these designated spaces, it will help to free up spaces for residents on the surrounding neighborhood streets. This plan is also part of a larger policy change to shift mode use, including transit passes for students and staff, free BlueBike membership for city staff, and continued exploration for off-site parking options. If, after a pilot period, we learn that this strategy is not working, I would

support revisiting it. But at this point, before we have had a chance to see the plan in action, it would be premature to undo it, and would be a major disservice to our students.

I respectfully urge you to support this policy and to reject the appeal. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely, Ben

--

Ben Ewen-Campen (he/him/his)
Somerville Ward 3 City Councilor
617-702-2613
www.BenForWard3.com

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[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)*

Natalie Podrazik
Sun 2/20/2022 11:34 AM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am strongly supportive of the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Parking is a privilege, not a right. As a resident of 61R Prescott St and pedestrian, mother of 2, and daily bicycle commuter to Kendall, street parking spaces in our area should be changed from Somerville residents to City/School employees only. Cars seeking spaces should drive elsewhere.

Moreover, I am in a Facebook group for mothers in the area. A teacher from outside Somerville once made a plea to appeal to local residents for the option to park in their driveway on street cleaning days. She described a legitimately nightmarish scenario where she could not get her children to childcare when it opened and find a parking space on Prescott St and surrounding streets when street cleaning was in effect.

Give teachers dedicated stretches of Highland Ave, School St, and Walnut St, and prevent somerville local passes from parking there. And add Prescott St to that list.

N

daniel degois

Wed 2/23/2022 6:41 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials, My name is Daniel DeGois , I'm a resident at Gilman Street and

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Keith Forlizzi

Thu 2/24/2022 1:54 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am a resident and owner of 104 Gilman Street, I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

I don't understand how a new \$250 million city project doesn't take into consideration or solve any parking issues in the area but instead creates new parking issues for its residents. The high school has bus stops, bike lanes and now a new T stop all things Somerville loves to champion for so why does the city want issue more parking for non residents?

Parking in the area is already cumbersome. The neighborhood has dealt with the day and night construction of the green line extension ; and the continued construction of the new high school all resulting in closed bridges and streets that have limited our parking options and impacted our daily lives.

Keith Forlizzi

Sent from my iPhone

edite degois

Wed 2/23/2022 6:45 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials, my name is Edite Gois, I am resident at Gilman St, and

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Jonathan Maren
Thu 2/24/2022 7:58 AM

To:

- **Transportation**

Regarding the proposed dedicated parking spaces for city employees:

The current situation on Vinal Ave during school hours is inconvenient but tolerable, but with the elimination of the spaces on School and Walnut and Highland the situation will likely become dire. The city needs to find permanent long term solutions to the teacher and staff parking problems, not just kicking the can down the road. With the Highland Ave redesign project in the works, even more spaces will be eliminated and the lack of parking for residents in the area will be significantly exasperated. The city needs to find remote parking, shuttle busses, something to deal with the lack of spaces.

Jon Maren
56 Vinal Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Wemerson Souza

Wed 2/23/2022 9:47 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials, I am wemerson de Souza, resident at Gilman Street and,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Jahaida Hernández Jesurum

Sat 2/19/2022 3:36 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees.

Best,
Jahaida.

Sent from my iPhone

Susan Ayers

Wed 2/23/2022 4:11 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for Somerville employees.

I own our home at 30 Summit Avenue, just down from the library and high school and parking during the day gets very tight because of all the teachers, staff etc. who park here. With snow emergencies, and street sweeping it's impossible to find parking. I was fortunate to put in a tiny driveway 30 yrs ago but there are few other driveways on the street and lots of residents.

I was stunned when I heard that the parking facility for the school was scrapped because of cost!!! Given the density of Somerville it seemed beyond short sighted.

I don't know what the solution is to this situation but placing the burden for this plan on local property owners within blocks of the school and city hall is unfair and unacceptable.

Staying Tuned. Susan Ayers

30 Summit Ave

Somerville

Lucia Mcalpin

Thu 2/24/2022 11:47 AM

To:

- **Transportation**

As a senior Somerville resident with limited mobility who uses the library often for many resources, the removal of the parking next to the library was already a hardship. Further reducing parking presents considerable difficulties for me, as I am dependent on my car. And you'd like me to pay to use a free publicly funded institution?

Daria Domin
Thu 2/24/2022 10:41 AM
To:

- **Transportation**



Hi,
I would like to submit the attached photo taken at 10:45am on Wednesday 2/23. It is the odd side of Highland Ave in front of the high school. As you can see, the new restricted spots on Highland Ave in front of the high school are vacant. It is winter break and school is not in session this week. I also don't see any city hall employees parked there.

However, as a resident I am not allowed to park there after work unless I move my car by 7am the following day. It makes no sense that these spots are not useable for residents when school is not in session this week. I also don't see any city hall employees parked there.

However, as a resident I am not allowed to park there after work unless I move my car by 7am the following day. It makes no sense that these spots are not useable for residents when school is not session.

Daria Domin
42 Highland Ave

elizabeth lalita sharma

Thu 2/24/2022 2:59 PM

To:

- **Transportation;**
- Katherine White;
- **Traffic Commission;**
- Brad Rawson;
- Mayor;
- Ben Ewen-Campen;
- Justin Schreiber;
- Viola Augustin

Dear City Officials,

I am against the November 18th Traffic Commissions decision to repurpose resident parking on Highland Ave, Walnut Street and School Street to make parking for for Somerville employees. I live in Somerville and if our street parking is taken by the city it will be a problem for us to park . The city employees can easily park in the street because they are provided with the parking permit so why use residents 50 parking spots. I disagree. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone