

Helena Citizens' Council

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Date: July 25, 2018

To: Helena City Commission

From: Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)

Subject: Resolution Presenting HCC Recommendations Regarding Vehicles Stored or Illegally

Parked on Helena's Neighborhood Streets and Boulevards

The resolution below was approved unanimously by the HCC on July 25, 2018.

Resolution

WHEREAS, in some neighborhoods there is no off-street parking and parking of unused or seldom used vehicles (including trailers) denies other residents availability of parking near their residence; and

WHEREAS, vehicles on neighborhood streets that are inoperative, have significant visual damage, or are missing essential components harm neighborhood quality of life and devalue properties; and

WHEREAS, parking of vehicles on streets during noticed snow removal operations denies residents of City provided snow removal services, and creates safety concerns for both snow removal equipment and residents; and

WHEREAS, on numerous occasions over the past few years, HCC members and citizens voiced concern over parking on neighborhood streets; and

WHEREAS, the Helena Police do not have the resources to actively patrol neighborhood streets to seek out violations related to parking laws. Enforcement is dependent on complaints; and

WHEREAS, the City of Helena has a Police Volunteer Program that has helped to address storing of vehicles, abandoned vehicles, and illegal parking in neighborhoods in the past;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HELENA CITIZENS' COUNCIL:

The Helena Citizens' Council makes the following recommendations to the City Commission:

The City conducts a public information campaign focused on increasing awareness of parking laws, especially in neighborhoods, through, for example, brochures in the water bills, social media, door hangers, or other information vehicles.

The City takes a more active role on enforcing parking ordinances in neighborhoods through, for example, regular patrols or resourcing of the Volunteer Police program.

The City Commission updates parking ordinances to better serve the intent of the law though, for example, adding language to prevent owners from rolling vehicles a few feet to avoid fines.