

Mr. Eric Norenberg,  
City Manager  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

February 7, 2010

Re: Fairway Drive newly restricted parking

Dear Mr. Norenberg,

The residents of Fairway Drive with unanimous consensus respectfully request that the 5 no parking signs recently erected on our street be removed as soon as is practical.

The signs are unsightly, unneeded, and add unnecessary clutter to the tree lawns of our homes. In addition, the abrupt and seemingly arbitrary institution of drastically restricted parking confers unwarranted inconvenience and in some situations actual hardship to us homeowners and our guests. Our street is nearly 26 feet across, open, with an exceedingly low volume of traffic, and on-street parking has always been occasional, seamless and self-regulating, without problems.

We would like to know why this new restriction was implemented. Is there even a single instance of traffic obstruction or impediment of a safety vehicle in the entire 56 years of Fairway Drive's existence? We who have lived here for the past 31 to 50 years know of none.

If street safety is really a concern, would not the 5 signs be much better deployed elsewhere? Pyle Road for example, is poorly constructed, not well lit and measures only 18 feet 6 inches across. Parking is not restricted on either side for its entire length from Lorain Street south to the city limits and beyond to Hamilton Road. It is a heavily traveled roadway with numerous joggers, dog walkers, baby buggies, bicycles and an enormous number of out-of-town drivers speeding to the golf course, vocational school, Walmart, or Splash Zone. Also, the safety of the children at Prospect School ought to be a higher priority than Fairway Drive. Prospect Street is used daily by school buses, children and parents driving to and from the school, however "no parking" signs are not present on either side of the street from Reamer Place to Morgan Street. Prospect Street measures barely 24 feet across and there is not a "no parking here to corner" sign installed at its terminus with Morgan Street. In short, there are dozens of other locations where the signs would potentially be more useful and appropriately employed.

In conclusion, we hope that you will agree to grant our request. If you would like to discuss the situation further, please contact us at any time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

*Dan & Dan* *Carmen Atkins* *Ivan F. Swanson*  
*Paul Matheson* *Boris Georges* *Just T. Jeeh*  
*Mareline & Dan Merrill* *Wm. H. Bush*  
*John Murphy*



# Oberlin Fire Department

430 South Main Street, Oberlin Ohio 44074  
(P) 440.774-3211 (F) 440.774-7809 [www.oberlin-fire.com](http://www.oberlin-fire.com)

## Mission Statement

"To proudly protect lives, property and the environment by providing prompt, skillful, cost-effective fire and life safety services"

March 3, 2010

Dear Resident:

I have received and reviewed the February 7 correspondence from the Fairway Drive residents pertaining to the installation of 'No Parking' signs on that right-of-way. While the implementation of this parking restriction was performed by the Public Works Division, it was accomplished with the operational needs for the Fire Department in mind.

To assure quick, efficient emergency response, the Fire Department, under the provisions of the Oberlin Codified Code section 1501.01, is authorized to establish fire apparatus access to various portions of the community. By definition, these access routes include fire lanes, public streets, private streets, parking lots, and access roadways from the point of departure at the fire station to emergency locations. Specific requirements for fire apparatus access are derived from the International Fire Code - a consensus developed code based on the response and operational needs of a fire department.

Under Section 503 of the International Fire Code, establishment of fire apparatus access considers several access conditions, such as the ability of emergency vehicles to negotiate streets (restrictions, road width, parking obstructions, etc.), the ability of emergency vehicles to operate within 150 feet of a structure (based on the standard length of preconnected fire hose carried on fire apparatus), and dead-end roads without turnaround capability (cul-de-sacs).

While many public streets in Oberlin have a variety of conditions necessitating the establishment of fire apparatus access, the conditions on Fairway Drive heighten this need. A dead-end street in excess of 150 feet in length combined with alternating on-street parking does not represent the best of access conditions. Accordingly, the fire department requested the parking restriction on one side to meet the twenty (20) foot access requirement of the code.

Normally, these access routes are required to be legally marked with fire lane signs. However, due to the residential nature of the street, it was more appropriate to post the "No Parking on Hydrant Side" signs. Further, after consideration of the cul-de-sac and less-traveled roadway, we now believe the parking restriction can be best implemented and enforced by limiting the signs to a single sign at the initial entrance of Fairway Drive and one at the cul-de-sac.

We hope that you will understand the need for your emergency services to ensure unobstructed access to you in your time of need, and that the minimal posting of signs will still enhance your residential area.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Dennis Kirin  
Fire Chief

cc Eric Norenberg, City Manager  
Jeff Baumann, Public Works Director

Mr. Eric Norenberg  
City Manager  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

March 7, 2010

Re: Restricted Parking

Dear Mr. Norenberg,

Since February 7th we have patiently waited for you to reply to our request to have the 5 intrusive no parking signs on Fairway Drive removed as soon as is practical. Considering the number of weeks and the simplicity of the matter, the lack of a written response or any response from you to our many questions and request has been disappointing.

We would like to know why this new restriction was singularly foisted upon our peaceful neighborhood when it is obvious to any reasonable person that there is absolutely no need or justification for it, legal or otherwise. We would still like to know if there has been even a single instance of impediment of a safety vehicle, ever on our street. When are you going to ban parking on both sides of Oak Street if it is mandatory to maintain a 20 foot "fire lane" on all existing residential streets? When are you going to protect the residents and school children on Prospect Street? When are you going to sign both sides of narrow Pyle Road? Woodhaven? When are you going to accept and follow a valid and honest, interpretation of Ohio Law?

We are good citizens, reliable first rate tax payers, and proud property owners who at least deserve the courtesy of acknowledgement and a response from you. Why do we have to fight to secure our right to equal protection under the law? Why do some "public servants" in the city administration believe it is wise to treat productive desirable citizens in this fashion?

Regards,

Homeowners on Fairway Drive

cc. Ken Sloane  
Sharon Soucy

## Eric Norenberg

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**From:** Robert Longworth [robert.longworth@oberlin.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 07, 2010 8:14 PM  
**To:** Eric Norenberg  
**Subject:** statement

Dear Eric,

At the meeting of the Oberlin City Council held on Monday, April 5, I made a statement during the period in which comments from the public were invited. The topic that I and others addressed was the placement of signs on Fairway Drive. I read from the text of a message that had been sent by Daniel Merrill, who is a resident of that street. You have suggested that I furnish that text for the benefit of you and the members of the Council. I am glad to do so (and have Mr. Merrill's permission as well). It is as follows:

"It's clear that Oberlin has far more 'No Parking' signs than do our surrounding communities. Whether these are justified involves two different types of questions:

1. The Policy Question: Where should parking be prohibited in Oberlin, and what are the justifications for prohibiting it where it is prohibited?
2. The Sign Problem: Where parking is prohibited, how many signs are needed to show this, and where should they be placed?

"While both of these issues are important, my main concern is with the first question, the Policy Question. When asked about it, several of us have been told that these 'No Parking' decisions have been made by the Fire Chief. When pressed further, the Fire Chief has said that these parking prohibitions have been mandated by the International Fire Code. Several of us have examined parts of the International Fire Code that appear to apply to these issues, and have been puzzled by how the Fire Chief can interpret that Code the way he has.

"We, therefore, would like the City Council to ask the Fire Chief to do two things:  
A. Specify exactly what sections of the International Fire Code he is referring to; and,  
B. Explain the basis for the way in which he interprets these sections as he does.

"It would clearly be best that the Council require that the Fire Chief provide this information in writing."

Thanks for your interest in having this text; best wishes in making use of it!

Sincerely,  
Bob



April 8, 2010

Residents of Fairway Drive

Dear fellow Oberlinians:

Near the end of the remarks made by or on behalf of Fairway Drive residents at Monday's City Council meeting, Bob Longsworth read comments prepared by Daniel Merrill that included:

Whether the number of no parking signs in Oberlin is "justified involves two different types of questions:

1. The Policy Question: Where should parking be prohibited in Oberlin, and what are the justifications for prohibiting it where it is prohibited?
2. The Sign Problem: Where parking is prohibited, how many signs are needed to show this, and where should they be placed?"

Those questions are where the conversation began during our agenda meeting this morning. Prior to each City Council meeting, the Council President and Vice President meet with the Law Director, Finance Director, City Clerk and City Manager to set the agenda for the next City Council meeting. Because there was interest in placing the "no parking" signage topic on the next City Council agenda, we discuss this matter this morning.

While staff have not been following a specific written policy, signs are placed in accordance with the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices in situations that dictate that no parking restrictions will promote traffic safety, safe and efficient public works operations and prompt emergency response. We understand there are gaps and inconsistencies in the community. That is why the General Maintenance Division has been working to replace existing signs and to install additional signs and why the signs were initially installed on Fairway Drive. Installation of additional signs is on hold pending internal review and presentation to City Council.

Recognizing that signage is a citywide matter and it would be important for the Council to have street/signage data for the rest of the City, it was agreed that staff would gather more data, prepare a draft set of standards and procedures that address the various situations found in Oberlin, and prepare signage recommendations that utilize the minimum appropriate number of signs. Accordingly, there will *not* be an action item related to this matter on April 19. However, I will update the City Council on our progress at that meeting.

In the meantime, while this is under review, the "No Parking This Side of Street" and "No Parking in Cul de Sac" signs will be removed temporarily from Fairway Drive.

Lastly, several of you spoke at the City Council meeting on Monday, April 5 and a few of you referenced research, photos or other documentation. The City Council and City Clerk requested that information for the record. At this point, I have only received the comments from Mr. Merrill read by Bob Longsworth. If any of you have information to share with the City Council or me that has bearing on establishment of Citywide standards, please send it to me ([enorenberg@cityofoberlin.com](mailto:enorenberg@cityofoberlin.com)) and the City Clerk ([banderson@cityofoberlin.com](mailto:banderson@cityofoberlin.com)).

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Norenberg", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Eric Norenberg

DRAFT

Cul-de-Sac and Dead End Street 'No Parking' sign review						
No.	Street Name	Length	Width	No Parking (Yes/No)	Location	Field Notes
1	Beech St.	822'	30'-31'	Yes	hydrant side	No Parking on Hydrant side of street
2	Berger Ct.	347'	25'	No	N/A	
3	Caskey Dr.	569'	25'	Y/N	Cul-de-sac	Cul-de-sac is posted 'No Parking Fire Lane'
4	Eastern Ave. (north)	TBD	20'	Yes	Both sides	In accordance with the approved subdivision design
5	Eastern Ave. (south)	TBD	20'	Yes	Both sides	In accordance with the approved subdivision design
6	Edgemere Pl.	1,019'	20'	Yes	hydrant side	Cul-de-sac pavement width is 16'; cul-de-sac not signed
7	Elm St.	793'	20'	Yes	hydrant side	Cul-de-sac not signed
8	Fairway Dr.	626'	24'-25'	Yes	hydrant side	New standard
9	Gladys Ct.	619'	24'-25'	Yes	hydrant side	
10	King St.	923'	20'	Yes	hydrant side	
11	Hawthorne	310'	27'	No	N/A	
12	Hollywood St.	450'	30'	Yes	Opposite hydrants	
13	Monroe Ct.	TBD	TBD	Yes	Cul-de-sac	
14	Mulberry	366'	27'	No	N/A	
15	N. Prospect St.	1,127'	30'	Yes	hydrant side	
16	Reamer Pl.	621'	26'	Yes	Opposite hydrants	
17	Reserve Ave.	TBD	26'	No	hydrant side	Phases I and II signed; only 2 houses in Phase III
18	Roosevelt Ct.	340'	28'	Yes	Cul-de-sac	
19	Smith St.	1,282'	25'	Y/N	Opposite hydrants	First +/-600' only
20	Stewart Court	332'	24'	No	N/A	Only hydrant is at the back of the cul-de-sac
21	Summer St.	1,430'	21'	No	N/A	
22	Sycamore	508'	23'	Yes	west side	Hydrant in cul-de-sac only
23	Woodhaven Pl.	420'	24'-25'	No	N/A	

DRAFT

Total street segments included in survey: 23  
 # of street segments signed No Parking: 14  
 # of street segments not signed: 7  
 # of street segments partially signed: 2

Mr. Noenberg,

Will need this information as soon as possible to prepare for our council presentation on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you. in advance

D. Matthews

Oberlin City Manager  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

April 8, 2010

Dear Mr. Norenberg:

Please allow this letter to serve as a formal public records request pursuant to Ohio's Public Records Law, Ohio Revised Code 149.43 and State ex. Rel. Rasul-Bey v. Onunwor (2002) 94 Ohio St.3d 119

Specifically, I am requesting access to and copies of the following:

1. Any and all written records and/or documents, of whatever nature, kind and/or description, including e-mails and/or other electronically stored documents relating to the matter of the installation of no parking signs on Fairway Drive between the dates of December 1, 2009 and April 9, 2010.
2. Any and all written records and/or documents, of whatever nature, kind and/or description including e-mails and/or other electronically stored documents relating to any and all communication between you and the Oberlin Fire Chief (Dennis Kirin), between you and the Oberlin Public Works Director (Jeff Bauman), and between you and Dave Rucker all from the date of December 3, 2009 to April 9, 2010.
3. The telephone logs (equivalent thereof) of the Oberlin City Manager (Eric Norenberg), from the date of November 9, 2009 to April 9, 2010.
4. The complete personnel file of Fire Chief Dennis Kirin.
5. Any written or recorded legal opinion (equivalent thereof) pertaining to Fairway Drive or the posting of no parking signs within the City of Oberlin. Any written legal opinion concerning the rights and duties of the Fire Chief and the rights and duties of the Oberlin City Manager pertaining to parking regulations, issued from January 1, 2010 to April 8, 2010.
6. A copy of the work order (equivalent thereof) requesting that no parking signs be installed on Fairway Drive.

If my Public record request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. Thank you for prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Matus M.D.

Oberlin, Ohio  
(440) 935-1471