



## Evaluation of “Handicap Parking Petitions”

10 Merrifield Street

July 14, 2023

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Petition: Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking Upon the Petition of Bernadette Forget request installation of handicap parking space large enough for two vehicles in front of 10 Merrifield St.

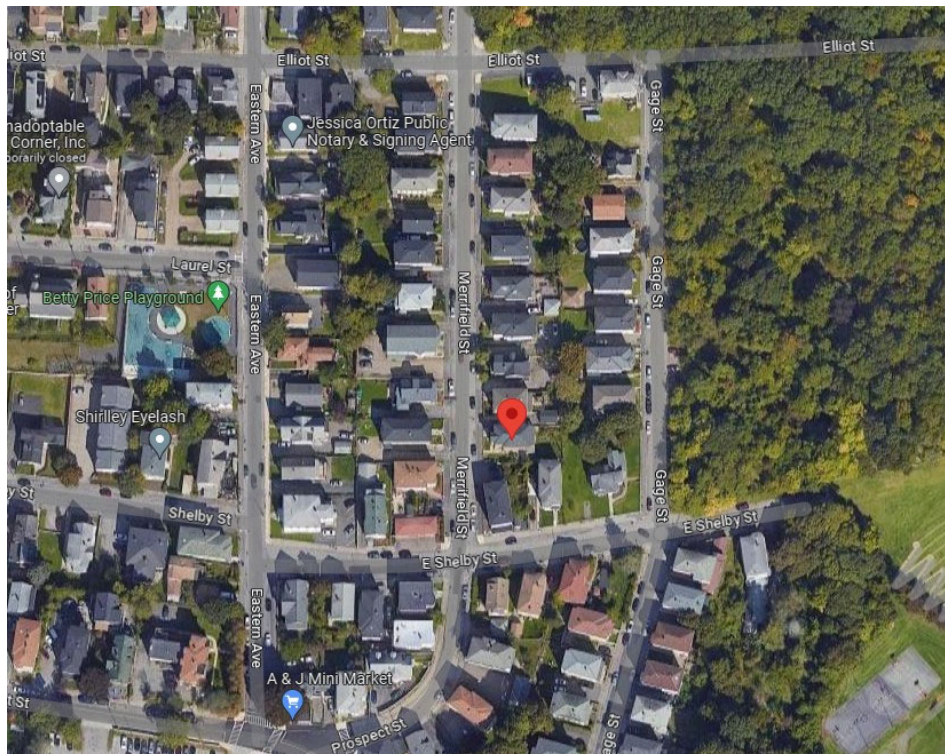
# 12c CC June 13, 2023

Scheduled Committee Hearing: July 19, 2023 Traffic & Parking Committee, Item 3d

Prepared by: Todd M. Kirrane, Assistant Director

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At the March 22, 2023 meeting of the Traffic & Parking Committee, the Committee took up the issue of Bernadette Forget’s request for the installation of a designated Curbside Disabled Parking Space in front of 10 Merrifield Street.



**IMAGE 1: Aerial image of location**



**IMAGE 2: Streetview of location**

Ms. Forget testified at the meeting that she resides at 9 Merrifield Street and has a handicap space in front of her residence for her use, as does the resident from 5 Merrifield Street. She stated that the residents of 10 Merrifield Street often use the space in front of her house, which makes it unavailable for her use. A second unidentified resident testified in support of the request.

Linda White, the resident of 10 Merrifield Street, testified in opposition of the request because she stated that the space would not meet her needs since it is not eligible for use during the permanent winter parking ban. Unlike the other surrounding residences, her residence has no on-site parking and she must rely on public on-street parking for her motor vehicles. Instead, she favored increasing the size of the disabled parking spaces in front of either 9 Merrifield St or 5 Merrifield St so create 2 spaces each.

Staff from Transportation & Mobility reminded all parties that on-street disabled spaces are not specific to any one resident and are available to anyone with a legally issued state placard or plate. Staff also discussed the overall on-street parking demand of this area, which is high, and the fact that often cars park close together and violate the 5 ft driveway prohibition by parking right up to, but not within, a driveway curbcut. Additionally, although practice has been that disabled spaces are 20 ft, Massachusetts state law requires that curbside disabled spaces be 25 ft in length to account for a 20 ft parking area and a 5 ft pathway to the sidewalk. Based on these different regulations, the extension of either space would not actually create two legal disabled parking spaces and would further restrict available non-disabled parking in an already parking constrained area. Based on this staff recommended installation of a curbside disabled parking space in front of 10 Merrifield St.

However, implementation has been put on hold until this most recent issue is addressed by the Committee. In order to help frame and inform the conversation, staff has prepared a summary of available parking space and current regulations for this section of Merrifield Street. The available curb space is broken down into each section and is after deducting the required 5 ft driveway protection ordinance.



**IMAGE 3: Available curb for on-street parking**

**Recommendation:** Based on the information provided above and previous discussions, staff recommends the following

- Vote to FILE this issue and move forward with implementation of the installation of a curbside disabled parking space in front of 10 Merrifield Street