

**Memorandum
Public Works Department**



To: City Manager
Subject: Handicapped Parking Space
Date: July 17, 2012
Number: 2012-164

SOURCE OF REQUEST:

David Gottwalt
2931 36th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The Traffic Engineering Committee received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES WARRANTS:

Not Applicable

CONTACTS WITH RESIDENTS:

Letters were sent to nearby neighbors. Nine (9) responses opposed the request and one (1) supported the request.

TRAFFIC STUDY INFORMATION:

There is no parking on the west side of 36th Street.

COST:

The cost to the city is minimal.

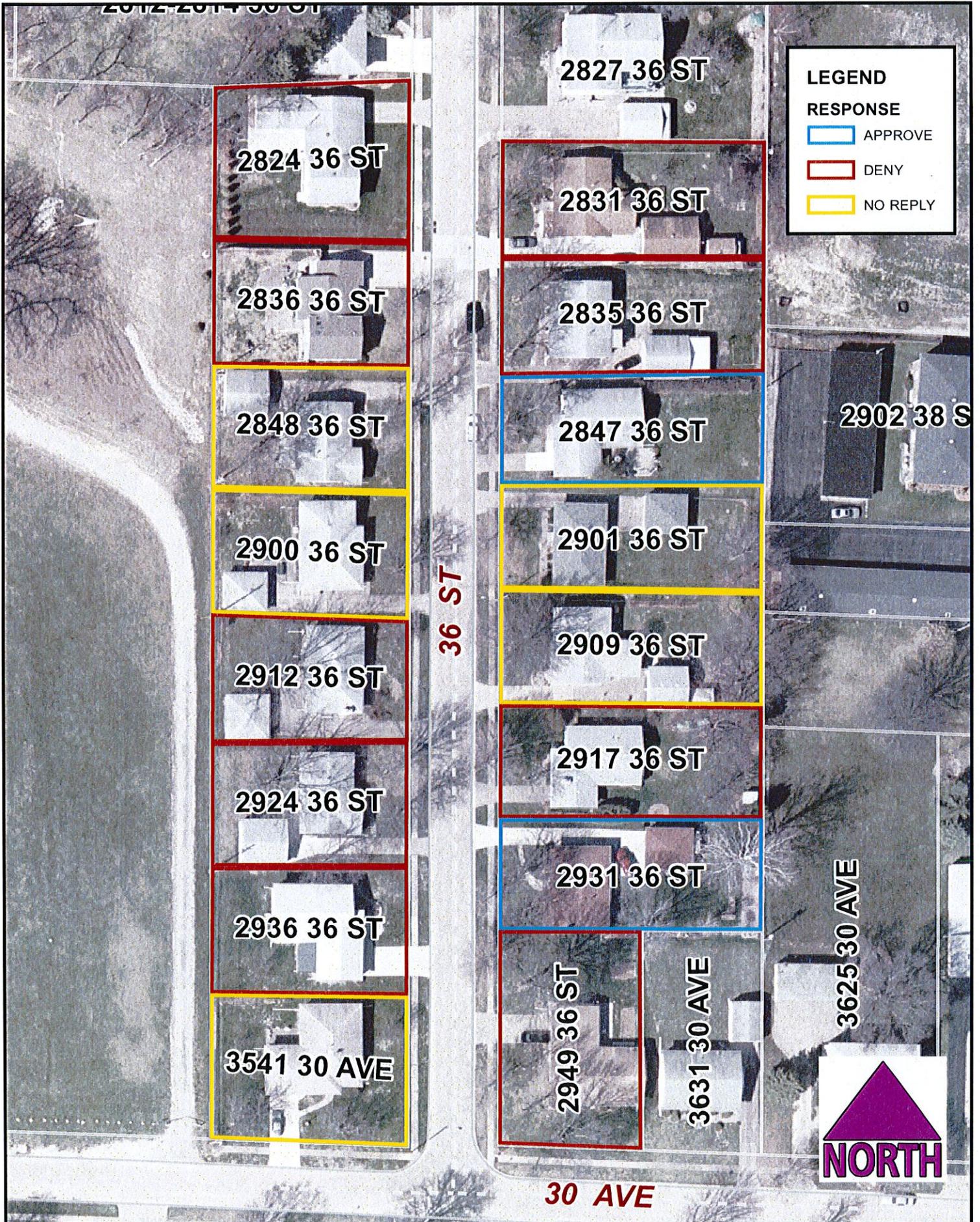
RECOMMENDATION:

The Traffic Engineering Committee recommends that the City Council deny the request.

Submitted by: Robert T. Hawes, P.E., Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

Approved by: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

Request for a Handicapped Parking Space - 2931 36th Street



2936 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: There is more than ample parking in the driveway and garage on a flat surface near the door to the house - which he always uses. Parking in street requires walking up and down a steep incline.
Other comments given by phone to Michelle Martin.

Thanks for opportunity to respond to this request.

Public Works Department
1309 Mill Street, Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Phone 309.732-2200 Fax.309.732-2380 www.rigov.org





June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2831 36 ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

TEC #12-15

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Rock Island's Traffic Engineering Committee has received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

Before we act on this request, we would like your input. Please remember that the installation of a handicapped parking space does not restrict the handicapped parking space to only the person requesting the space but is accessible to anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard.

Please complete the bottom of this letter and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (309) 732-2200. Please do so no later than Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michelle Martin'.

Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2831 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Mr. Gottwalt wants this handicapped parking spot to keep other people from parking in front of his house. We know that he has lung cancer, but he is able to walk all over the neighborhood and bother anyone who is doing any kind of construction or remodeling. Just this week he walked down the street where cement was being poured. He is the one who requested signs be put up for no parking on one side of the street. The family who live across the street from him have teenagers so they have multiple cars with a single car driveway. If the no parking sign was not put on their side of the street, they would park in front of their own house. Mr. Gottwalt has a single car driveway that opens up into a double car driveway that he parks in now. It makes it much closer for him to get into his house. His garage is always set up for a garage sale that he has multiple times during the year whenever someone else has put an announcement in the newspaper. Aren't you only allowed so many garage sales a year? If anyone deserves a handicapped parking space, it should be the people next door to Gottwalts. Mrs. Zare uses a walker and her son uses a wheelchair. They never complain. They park in their own driveway. When my husband asked Mr. Gottwalt why he wanted the handicapped parking spot in front of his house, he said it was so nobody would park there and he could get better snow removal. Please take the neighbors comments into consideration before granting the handicapped parking space. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve and Karen Kean

RI
ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

6-26-12

Anna left a message.
- Her husband spoke to David
& David said that the
only reason he wanted the
space was because the
snow plow dumps snow
in front of his driveway.
- Anne asked that this comment
be added to their
letter.

June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2917 36TH ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

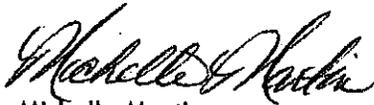
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Sincerely,



Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2917 36TH ST

I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.

~~we~~ disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments:

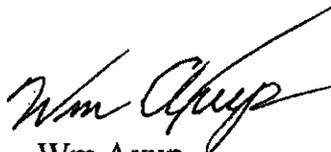
see attached sheet →

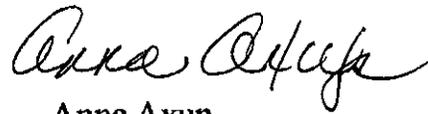


Gottwalt handicapped parking request 6/25/12

We do not believe Dave Gottwalt needs a handicapped parking spot for several reasons:

- 1.. Over some 40 years, we frequently converse with him and his wife and, among other things, hear about his ailments, but the subject of handicap has never come up until just recently.
2. For the past 40 or more years, he habitually parks to the rear of his house with only occasional times in front. (see # 5 below) He still appears to be an able driver, skilled at backing up in the driveway to park behind the house, and we do not believe he is likely to change his habit.
3. Even for a handicapped person the behind the house parking affords a shorter, level access to the side door of the house which he and his wife always use.
4. The street is restricted to parking on one side. In the evening when every one is home there can be a half dozen cars parked on the street in the immediate vicinity of our homes. That probably unused handicap space would deprive the rest of us of frequently needed additional personal or guest space.
5. We see the request as a continuation of a long standing fairly one sided feud/antipathy/aversion on the part of Dave Gottwalt toward the male neighbor across the street at 2924 36th St. It has even extended to his calling the police on numerous occasions to complain about that neighbor's cars that were legally parked in front of his - - Gottwalt's house.


Wm Axup


Anna Axup

2817 36th St, Rock Island

2824 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
STRONGLY
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: Every House on that Street has a driveway... USE IT. I'm Sure
There are more urgent matters to utilize your Budget than
Someone wanting there own parking spot on the street.

Daew England

809-235-2918

CALL if you want a more in depth reason

Public Works Department
1309 Mill Street, Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Phone 309.732-2200 Fax.309.732-2380 www.rigov.org





ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2949 36 ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

TEC #12-15

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Rock Island's Traffic Engineering Committee has received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

Before we act on this request, we would like your input. Please remember that the installation of a handicapped parking space does not restrict the handicapped parking space to only the person requesting the space but is accessible to anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard.

Please complete the bottom of this letter and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (309) 732-2200. Please do so no later than Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2949 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: Mr. Gottwalt has a large parking area in front
of his garage, only 10ft. from his back door.
I do not approve of a handicapped space.

RI
ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2847 36 ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

TEC #12-15

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Rock Island's Traffic Engineering Committee has received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

Before we act on this request, we would like your input. Please remember that the installation of a handicapped parking space does not restrict the handicapped parking space to only the person requesting the space but is accessible to anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard.

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Sincerely,



Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2847 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: _____



ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2836 36 ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

TEC #12-15

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Rock Island's Traffic Engineering Committee has received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

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Sincerely,

Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2836 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: talked to Ann Martel on 6-27-12

*She would like to change her reply to disapprove.
-talked to David Gottwalt after she submitted the reply.
He stated that he wanted the space because of the
snow plows in the driveway.
-He has driveway next to his door & a 2 car garage.*





ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2912 36 ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

TEC #12-15

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Rock Island's Traffic Engineering Committee has received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

Before we act on this request, we would like your input. Please remember that the installation of a handicapped parking space does not restrict the handicapped parking space to only the person requesting the space but is accessible to anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard.

Please complete the bottom of this letter and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (309) 732-2200. Please do so no later than Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,

Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2912 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: We spoke to the neighbor, and he told us he doesn't want the
space. He only wants it so no one parks there in the winter
and the snow plow can get closer to his driveway.

TRAFFIC Engineering Committee

~~I would have no problem with a handicap space from the corner of the street but not in front of Dave's house - he 2835 36TH ST not his wife are handicapped~~

I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.

I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: the only reason Dave wants a handicap space is so the neighbor across the street from him doesn't park there. Dave told me, (person to person) on 6-23-12 at 11:45AM that =>

Public Works Department
1309 Mill Street, Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Phone.309.732-2200 Fax.309.732-2380 www.rigov.org



he was tired of having to shovel snow from the end of his drive, because of the neighbors parking in front of his house. He said the snow plows had to go around the cars, he was tired of it and if he didn't get his space he going to keep calling the city as many times as it takes to get them cars from in front of his house. It sounds to me like he doesn't get along with the neighbors and for that he does not deserve a handicap space. Also, if he gets a space because of snow removal, I told him, now you, then I want a handicap space in front of my house too.


ROCK ISLAND
ILLINOIS

June 20, 2012

CURRENT RESIDENT
2924 36 ST
ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

RE: Handicapped Parking Space

TEC #12-15

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Rock Island's Traffic Engineering Committee has received a request from David Gottwalt, 2931 36th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home.

Before we act on this request, we would like your input. Please remember that the installation of a handicapped parking space does not restrict the handicapped parking space to only the person requesting the space but is accessible to anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard.

Please complete the bottom of this letter and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (309) 732-2200. Please do so no later than Friday, July 6, 2012.

Sincerely,



Michelle Martin
Assistant to the Public Works Director
Traffic Engineering Committee

2924 36 ST

- I approve the installation of the handicapped parking space at 2931 36th Street.
- I disapprove the installation of the handicapped parking space.

Comments: _____

June 27 2012

City of Rock Island
Traffic Engineering Committee
1309 Mill Street
Rock Island IL, 61201

To Whom It May Concern,

I am responding to your letter dated June 20, 2012 asking my opinion regarding a proposed handicapped parking space at 2931 36th street, Rock Island, IL. The comments section contained within that letter was insufficient for my needs to address this issue, so I attach this letter where I may provide historical background and place my disapproval of the installation of the handicapped parking space in context. Much of the information I am about to provide is a matter of public record within the Rock Island Police files.

Let me begin by stating this is not an attempt by Mr. Gottwalt to obtain a legitimate, needed handicapped parking place, but yet another attempt by him, in a long line of attempts by him, to prevent me from legally parking in front of his house. By the way, this parking area also happens to be in front of my house at 2924 36th street Rock Island, across the street from Mr. Gottwalt.

Please allow me to put this in context. I moved into my home 6 years ago. At that time there was parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Gottwalt persuaded me to sign his petition to limit parking to only one side of the street. He stated when there were football or baseball games at Saukie field on 30th avenue that cars parked on both sides of the street and the street became so congested an ambulance could not get through if he or his wife had an emergency. I took him at his word and signed his petition. When parking became limited to one side only, he chose parking on his side of the street over parking on my side of the street. He personally made that choice, no one else really cared. As the years have passed I came to find that the congestion he spoke of only occurred 2 or 3 times a year, much less of a problem than he indicated. This was my introduction to Mr. Gottwalt's willingness to exaggerate health concerns or stretch the truth to obtain his aims.

Mr. Gottwalt has turned out to be the neighborhood busybody. He wants to control everyone in the neighborhood. My next door neighbor is an elderly woman who has lived in this neighborhood for 40 years and she has told me Mr. Gottwalt was one of the first to build a house in the neighborhood and has "assumed" ownership of the neighborhood ever since. This doesn't have any bearing on your decision of course, I tell you this to explain the background of the falling out Mr. Gottwalt and I had approximately 3 years ago over his continued intrusiveness into our lives. I told him point blank to stay out of my business and on his own side of the street. Since that time Mr. Gottwalt has used the Rock Island Police force and Department of Inspection to harass my wife and myself. He goes up and down the neighborhood telling people that I threatened him. His proof is that I "raised my fist to him". I am an RN and have worked for Robert Young Mental Health for 16 years; I don't raise my fist to people. He

may be honestly mistaken thinking I raised my fist when I pointed at him to "stay on his own side of the street", but I feel it is charitable to even grant that. His wife was not 5 feet away during our confrontation and is an unwilling witness to my version of events.

Three weeks ago I finally went to the Rock Island police station to complain about his continued use of the police dept. to harass me. He continually has called and reported my vehicles as abandoned vehicles in an effort to control where I park. He has called RI police 10+ times reporting my legally parked vehicle as an abandoned vehicle. He has been repeatedly told by numerous officers that I was legally parked in front of my own home and they would not ticket or tow me. However, each time he calls them, the police come to my home and talk to me and we have to go through this whole story again, or to placate him they occasionally mark my tires and leave notice to move the vehicle within 72 hours or be towed. Of course the cars are always moved well before that deadline, my wife and I both work. The vehicles are not abandoned and he is fully aware of this fact. When I complained to the RI police 3 weeks ago about this ongoing harassment, they did go to him and informed him he was engaging in harassment, not to call them about my vehicles any more. He is quite angry about being told to stop filing false reports. All this is background to our current circumstance.

We come now to the real reason he is asking for a handicapped parking spot. There is room for 4 vehicles to park between Mr. Gottwalt's driveway and the driveway of his nearest neighbor to the south. I try to leave room for other vehicles when I park out front. I pull up to the first available parking spot so others may park behind me. Frequently this is the spot closest to Mr. Gottwalt's driveway. I park no closer than 10 feet from the driveway and every officer who has visualized my parking has stated to him that I was legally parked and in no way interfered with his driveway. Mr. Gottwalt is determined that no one shall park in that first spot closest to his driveway. Those are the times he calls the police, if anyone parks in that first spot nearest his driveway. Mr. Gottwalt's personality is such that he is not going to allow that. pic 1

As I said, my wife and I both work so our cars sit for no more than 48 hours in any spot on any given weekend, there is no legitimate reason for him to complain about our parking. He has a 2 car garage, off street parking on his driveway and purposely built his garage far enough away from his house he can pull behind the house to park and he and his wife can get out of their driveway without having to move the other car. I know this because he has told me and most of the other neighbors in an effort to demonstrate how smart he is. He has approximately a 3 to 4 foot grade up his driveway to the house, so it's much easier for him to park behind his house rather than walk up the grade of the driveway from the street. So he only parks on the street, in the second spot from his driveway, generally overlapping the first spot, in an effort to prevent others from parking directly in front of his house. He himself never parks in that first spot on the street even when there are no other cars parked in that area. He parks in such a way to leave only 3 parking spaces available in that stretch of the block. I know this sounds crazy, but it is the situation I have been dealing with for 3 years. Mr. Gottwalt's wife drives and parks in the driveway routinely. They both park in the garage when it is cleaned out, in the summer he has it full of yard sale stuff, his business. His preferred and routine parking place is on the driveway behind his house; it is flat and within 10 feet of his back door. Both he and his wife use the back door exclusively for ingress and egress. This bears repeating: when Mr. Gottwalt parks on the street he ONLY parks in pic 2
a) b+c

pic 3
a) b+c

the second spot, even when the street is clear of all cars. He NEVER parks in the first spot. He does not seem to care that others in the neighborhood may wish to park their car on the street. When he parks on the street he is 5 or 6 times farther from his back door and has to go up the 3 or 4 foot grade on his driveway. This would be much more difficult than parking in his driveway parking spot. He is not asking for a handicapped parking spot because he wants to park close to his driveway, he never parks in that spot. He wants to prevent all others from parking there. There is no good reason for him to prevent others from parking there; he just doesn't want them to. pic 5

I have included some pictures to help you visualize the circumstances I have outlined. As you can see, Mr. Gottwalt does not park in the spot he is asking to have reserved, he has better and more appropriate parking off street, and to park on the street would create a more difficult access to his home. Should you grant him a handicapped space in front of his house, you will be merely limiting the parking on our street as he will not use that spot. He just does not want it available to others. I find that rather selfish and not very neighborly.

Mr. Gottwalt likes to build up the stories about his health issues in order to manipulate others. I'm sure he has health issues, but as you can see from these pictures it does not prevent him from walking up a grade in grass to the neighbor's house, it does not prevent him from wandering the neighborhood to talk with people, it does not prevent him from gardening. I'm not really sure what handicap he wants to claim. His wife has told neighbors she doesn't know why he wants that spot for a handicapped spot since they have better parking in the drive way. I realize that statement is hearsay coming from me, but it's easily confirmed if you wish. I have 2 artificial knees and an artificial hip, he gets around as well as I do. I would ask you look at facts in this case and not be taken in by this man's willingness to say anything to garner sympathy to get his own way. I can suggest a way to test my hypothesis, if you wish, and determine Mr. Gottwalt's true motives. Offer to make the 2nd spot or the 3rd spot his handicapped "spot". He will refuse this offer because it does not fit his narrative for controlling the parking spot closest to his driveway. pic 4 people

Thank you for taking the time to read this long letter. There is just so much back story to this circumstance, I was not willing to sit back and let this man manipulate city services again without saying anything.

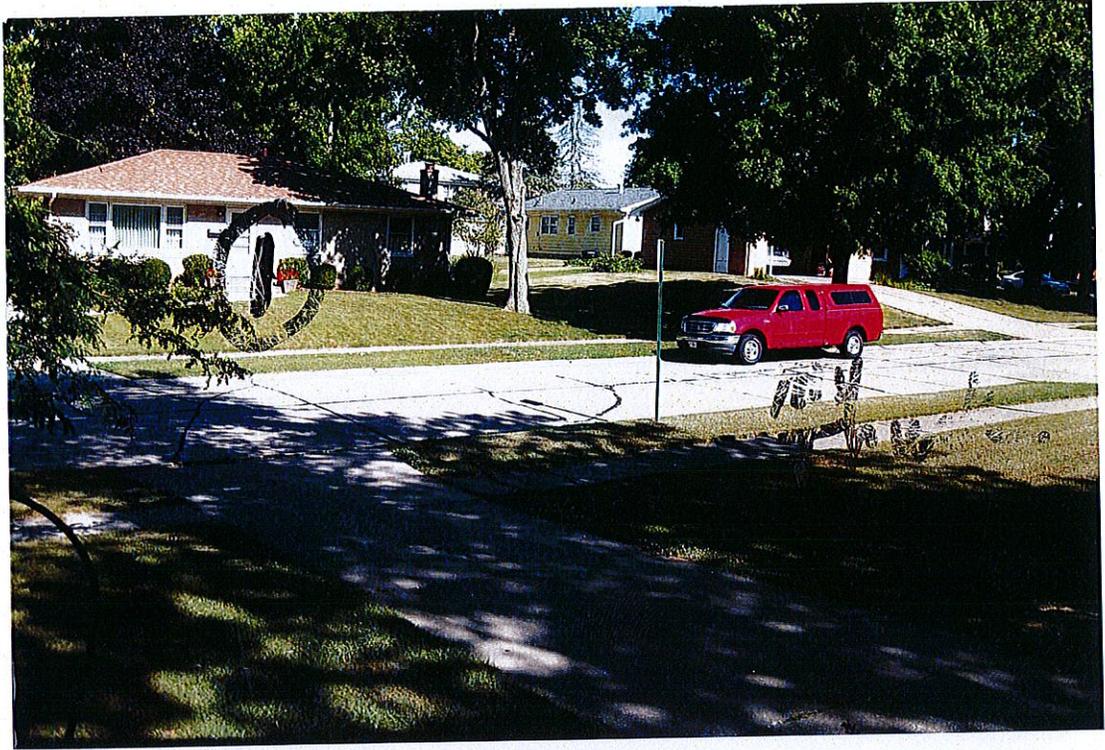
Sincerely,

Lawrence Curtiss RN

2924 36th street

Rock Island, IL

PS I've included 5 other pics showing
the 1st spot open. He doesn't park there
Thank you
LCC







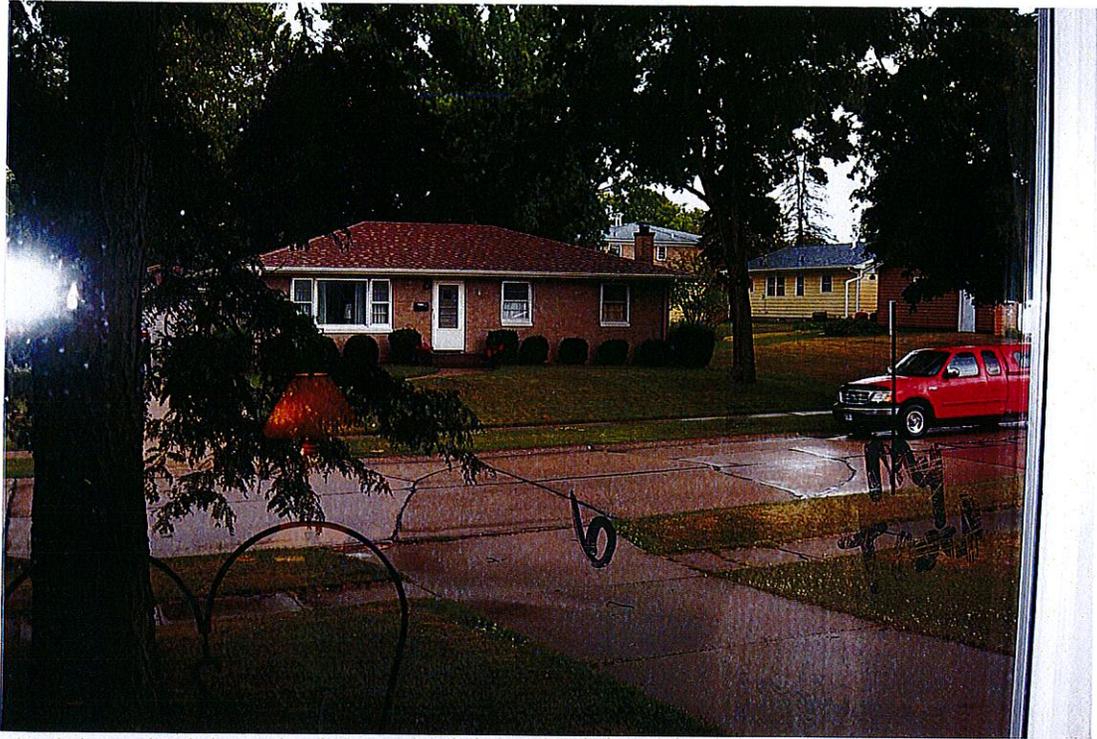












HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE REQUEST

To install a handicapped parking space in the City of Rock Island you must first complete this Handicapped Parking Space Request form and return it to:

City of Rock Island Public Works
ATTN: Traffic Engineering
1309 Mill Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

Upon receipt of this Handicapped Parking Space Request form, the Traffic Engineering Committee (TEC) will review the request and send a letter to neighbors requesting their input. The TEC will then make a recommendation to the City Council. A letter will be sent to the person requesting the handicapped parking space indicating the date of the City Council meeting along with a copy of the TEC recommendation.

The installation of a handicapped parking space does not restrict the handicapped parking space to only the person requesting the space but is accessible to anyone with a handicapped license plate or placard.

If you have any questions regarding the procedures of installing a handicapped parking space, please feel free to call the City of Rock Island's Public Works Department at (309)732-2200.

Name of Handicapped Resident... David Gottwalt

Property Address... 2931 36th St, RI, IL 61201

Telephone Numbers.....(Home) 309-786-2178

(Work) —

Does the Handicapped Resident Own the Property? Yes
 No

If No, please provide the name, address, and telephone number of the property owner:

(over)

Please describe the location to be designated as a handicapped parking space:

On Street Directly in Front of Residence

Does the handicapped resident have access to off-street parking such as a driveway or garage?

Yes
 No

If Yes, please describe the off-street parking and explain why the handicapped resident does not use the off-street parking:

Used Driveway, However wife
Blocks driveway with CAR forcing him to
park on street.

In order to utilize a handicapped parking space, a motorist must have handicapped license plates or a handicapped placard. Please provide the handicapped license plate number or placard number of the person who will be using this handicapped parking space.

License Number 972839
Placard Number BC22655

Please provide any additional information that may be of assistance to the Traffic Engineering Committee and the City Council members when they review your request:

Neighbor Across Street & his Children
continue to PARK in front of his residence
forcing him to Park & walk from down the street