

Appleton Police Department

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



Date: August 2, 2023
To: Municipal Services Committee
From: Chief Polly Olson
RE: Revision of parking signage – Action Item

We are requesting a modification to the parking restrictions in the downtown business area; in particular, the southside of the 400 and 500 block of W. College Avenue.

There are multiple issues that exist with the current parking arrangement. One is that there is currently nowhere for vehicles to easily pick up or drop off people. As a result, ride-share companies (i.e., Uber, Lyft, taxi cabs) stop in a lane of traffic for their customers. This occurs on both sides of the street, often causing intoxicated patrons to cross the street, mid-block, through traffic to get to or from their ride. Additionally, food trucks park on the south side of College Avenue. This causes larger groups of people to line the sidewalk to obtain their late-night snacks. These food trucks, in addition to the food carts, cause congestion on the sidewalk and have caused a delay in officers' response to ongoing disturbances and physical fights. It also causes visual obstructions, hindering officers' ability to observe active or brewing disputes.

The recommendation is to designate the south side of the 400 and 500 block of W. College Avenue as a passenger loading and unloading area with a 15-minute time limit (like the north side of the 400 block of W. College Ave.). This restriction would take place from 11:00pm – 5:00am. Current passenger loading zones on College Avenue are not sufficient to safely meet the demands at peak times.

We believe the added parking restrictions will help address the safety concerns outlined above, as well as allow a convenient, safe location for patrons to be dropped off or picked up by the various ride share program or other private transportation options.

Chief Polly Olson



July 27, 2023

Appleton Policy Department

Appleton Municipal Service Committee

Appleton Public Works

As representatives of the Downtown Hospitality Committee, we are unable to attend the Municipal Services committee meeting on Monday, August 7th and ask that this letter of comment be shared at the meeting.

The Hospitality Committee met and discussed the proposal for a parking adjustment after 10pm to the 400 and 500 W. block of College Ave on the south side of the street. In general, the committee was agreeable to the change and supports the intent to improve safety. We would like to request that the provision be active only Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights with an assessment review scheduled after 6 months. Captain Gary Lewis attended the meeting and shared the perspective from the department and helped facilitate the discussion.

With the majority of the concerns concentrated on the weekend, the business owners would like to see normal parking access throughout the week Sunday through Wednesday and submit this amendment for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our input and request.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Stephany
Executive Director
Appleton Downtown Inc.



Brent Mack
Hospitality Committee Chair
Appleton Downtown Inc.



Appleton Police Department

Compassion. Integrity. Courage.

222 South Walnut Street

(920) 832 - 5500



Appleton, WI 54911 - 5899

Fax (920) 832-5553

<http://www.appleton.org/police>

July 20th, 2023

Dear Business Owner:

I write to inform you of a recommendation for a modification to the parking restrictions in the downtown business area; in particular, the southside of the 400 and 500 block of W. College Avenue.

There are multiple issues that exist with the current parking arrangement. One is that there is currently nowhere for vehicles to easily pick up or drop off people. As a result, ride-share companies (i.e., Uber, Lyft, taxi cabs) stop in a lane of traffic for their customers. This occurs on both sides of the street, often causing intoxicated patrons to cross the street, mid-block, through traffic to get to or from their ride. Additionally, food trucks park on the south side of College Avenue. This causes larger groups of people to line the sidewalk to obtain their late-night snacks. These food trucks, in addition to the food carts, cause congestion on the sidewalk and have caused a delay in officers' response to ongoing disturbances and physical fights. It also causes visual obstructions, hindering officers' ability to observe active or brewing disputes.

The recommendation is to designate the south side of the 400 and 500 block of W. College Avenue as a passenger loading and unloading area with a 15-minute time limit (like the north side of the 400 block of W. College Ave.). This restriction would take place from 11:00pm – 5:00am. Current passenger loading zones on College Avenue are not sufficient to safely meet the demands at peak times.

We believe the added parking restrictions will help address the safety concerns outlined above, as well as allow a convenient, safe location for patrons to be dropped off or picked up by the various ride share program or other private transportation options.

This modification request will be on the agenda for the next Municipal Services Committee meeting on August 7th, 2023, at 4:30pm.

Chief Polly Olson