

op sign coming to Henderson & Allen; - Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) - November 7, 2008

November 7, 2008 | Herald-Times (Bloomington, IN) | Mercedes Rodriguez 331-4370 | mrodriguez@heraldt.com

A new **stop sign** on Henderson Street at Allen is one of the several changes to the city's vehicle and traffic rules approved by the Bloomington City Council.

Increased parking garage fees and parking fines are also on their way.

The ordinance converts the intersection of Henderson and Allen streets from a one-stop for traffic on Allen to a multi-way stop for traffic on Allen, the Bryan Park entrance, and Henderson.

The **stop sign** was favored by residents of the Bryan Park neighborhood — a few of whom spoke at the meeting — as a way to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street there.

The **stop sign** portion of the ordinance was proposed by council member Isabel Piedmont-Smith, whose district includes Bryan Park. She said neighbors told her they couldn't cross Henderson Street due to constant speeding traffic.

A pedestrian island was installed in that intersection over the summer as a traffic calming device. However, "Some neighbors think it has helped, other people say it's routinely ignored," she said the day after the meeting.

It was reported that the **stop sign** was recommended by the city's Traffic Commission in order to slow traffic on Henderson which, on average, was found to be going almost twice the legal limit.

Piedmont-Smith said she used to live a few blocks away from the park, and that she too had to race across Henderson to make it to the park.

City staff were not in favor of the measure because the automobile and pedestrian counts on that street did not meet established criteria for installing a sign.

Piedmont-Smith believes the **stop sign** will have an effect on those numbers. "In the long run, we'll have more people walking and biking there," she said.

The city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and Greenways strategic plan identifies parts of Allen Street as a location for a "bicycle boulevard," a road where all types of vehicles are allowed, but is modified to enhance bicycle safety and convenience.

There were also several changes to fee and fine structures.

The fine for a Class D violation (unauthorized parking in a residential area and parking beyond time restrictions) is \$20 or \$40 if not paid in seven days.

Parking garage fees will change incrementally. The cost of a 24-hour, seven-day per week reserved space will go from \$56.25 per month to \$69. The cost of a weekday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. reserved space goes from \$45.83 to \$52.

The cost of a weekday nonreserved space goes from \$33.33 to \$46. A new permit type would be for 24-hour daily access to nonreserved spaces for \$64 per month.

The ordinance was passed Wednesday night.

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