



Angie Kelly <angie.kelly@farmersbranch.info>

Fwd: Cars Parked in Street

2 messages

Gary Greer <gary.greer@farmersbranch.info>
To: Angie Kelly <Angie.Kelly@farmersbranch.info>
Cc: SIDNEY FULLER <SIDNEY.FULLER@farmersbranch.info>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 11:01 AM

Angie,

Please put this on the second meeting in October StudySession.

Sid,

Please be ready to address the issue. Have number of calls received ready to talk about on this neighborhood dispute.

Thanks,

Gary

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ben Robinson" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Cars Parked in Street
Date: September 30, 2013 9:33:51 AM CDT
To: "Brian Burns" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: <Gary.Greer@farmersbranchtx.gov>

I think we need to address this issue in council again. We have tried several times to solve the problem without success. So I am asking Gary by cc to put this issue on an upcoming study session agenda. With new council members maybe we can come up with some new ideas.

Ben

From: Brian Burns [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2013 4:37 PM
To: Sidney Fuller
Cc: Councilwoman Ana Reyes; Councilman Kirk Connally; Councilman Jeff Fuller; Councilman Harold Froehlich; Councilman Ben Robinson; Gary Greer City Manager; Mayor Bill Glancy
Subject: Cars Parked in Street

Chief Fuller,

Thank you for responding to my letter. I am including the city council and city manager in my

reply. I, too, agree that our officers should have some discretion in enforcing our laws, especially minor offences. However, I believe that discretion should end when we have repeat offenders who ignore the law.

Back in 2009, I received an e-mail for Gary Greer concerning an effort to stop overcrowding/parking of vehicles in the streets. This was not regarding "junk" cars as you say; this was regarding vehicles that were parked for more than 48 hours without moving. The issue is not abandoned vehicles; it is home owners who have one and two-garages who "choose" to have non-running vehicles or junk in them, rather than putting their day-to-day cars in the garage or on their driveway. Instead, they choose to dump their cars on the street to sit for days and weeks.

These streets were designed in the 1950's. They were designed for single-family dwellings with one, and at the most, two cars. The streets are narrow and not designed for people parking for extended periods on both sides. It becomes dangerous for two cars to come down the street at the same time. I have had near-accidents with speeders who are trying to get around the "extended stay" vehicles in the streets.

This is what I propose. If the officer can check the records, and finds this is a first or second call on the vehicle, then let's allow the discretion of the officer to make a warning or not to chalk the tire of the vehicle. But if this is a repeat offender, who refuses to move his vehicle, then not only should the vehicle be chalked, the offender should be ticketed.

I have had your dispatchers confront me in the past concerning whether I knew the vehicle was parked for 48 hours. "How do you know the vehicle has not moved in 48 hours?" I was asked. Actually, it is a good question; I base it upon the fact that I check the vehicle at least twice a day to see if it has moved. It is not scientific, but an eyeball. That is why I have requested in my calls that the vehicle be chalked at the tire. The chalk mark will tell me if it has moved or not.

Lastly, you mentioned that you don't want private citizens dictating enforcement actions. In my opinion, I do want private citizens to dictate enforcement actions. We have private citizens called the City Council, who are elected officials, and who take the feedback of private citizens, define the laws, including the parameters of the law. I influence my city council and they influence the employees of the city.

In the last several months, I have seen at least three other citizens speak before the council and mention the same thing; too many cars parked in the streets. Addison has the rule of no overnight vehicles on their suburban streets. I think Farmers Branch can at least enforce a reasonable law of 48 hours. The idea is to allow vehicles who are used on a regular basis to remain in the street; those individuals who want to use our streets as a permanent parking lot, need to clean out their garages and sell off their 1990's Beanie Babies and GI Joe's.

Sincerely,

Brian Burns

--- Original Message ---

From: [Sidney Fuller](#)

To: [Brian Burns](#)

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2013 8:46 AM

Subject: Re: Cars Parked in Street

Brian,

On these abandoned vehicle calls officers have a wide range of options including chalking the tires. They try to use common sense, good judgement and reasonableness when handling these calls which usually involves speaking to the vehicle owner. I intend to leave it up to the officers' discretion as to what action to take. I am confident if the officer finds a true junk vehicle on the street, they will deal with it immediately.

Policing a free society just works better if we allow officers to use discretion when dealing with minor offenses, and we certainly don't want to put a private citizen in the position of dictating enforcement action.

Sid

On Mon, Sep 23, 2013 at 9:03 PM, Brian Burns <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:
Chief Fuller,

Can you help me with an issue? As you know, I do not like my street littered with parked cars. Many of the residents on Heartside Place seem to think the street is a parking lot to leave their cars for days and weeks. I don't like to play chicken with oncoming traffic as I drive down my street. As you know, Heartside Place has become one of the busiest suburban streets in the Branch.

If any cars are parked for more than 48 hours, I do call non-emergency and report. I've recently had a discussion with one of your dispatchers, Teresa, and she made a point of, "Mr. Burns, how do you know if has been moved or not?" Well, I don't know 100%, but I do watch the vehicle a few times a day.

However, one way of knowing if the car has moved is having the officer chalk the tire. I'm pretty sure that is a standard policy with your department. Recently, I have called in to report a parked vehicle, and requested to the dispatcher to ask the officer to chalk the tire. In that way, both the officer and myself can tell if the vehicle has moved or not. However, the last two times I called, the officer did not chalk the vehicle, so I cannot tell if it moved.

Can you ask your officers, as a standard policy, to chalk the vehicle's tire if there is any doubt about the vehicle moving or not? The last two calls have been to 13725 Heartside Place and it is a 2009 White Dodge Ram truck.

Thanks,

Brian

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Please note that our email address has changed.

Sid R. Fuller
Chief of Police
Farmers Branch Police Department
sidney.fuller@farmersbranchtx.gov

Angie Kelly <angie.kelly@farmersbranch.info>
To: Gary Greer <gary.greer@farmersbranch.info>

Mon, Sep 30, 2013 at 11:55 AM

Done!

[Quoted text hidden]

Angie Kelly

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