

City of New Bedford Traffic Commission
February 24, 2021

Dear Mr. Downing,

This letter is in regard to Handicap Parking signs that went up in our neighborhood today. An obvious decision made by the board to allow handicap parking signs on the Morgan Street side of 180 Park Street, for the occupants of 173 Park Street who lives across the street at 173 Park Street first floor. I am sure you are aware of several parking issues in many of the neighborhoods in the city. This neighborhood is no different there is very limited parking on Morgan Street. The residents of 173 Park Street that petitioned to have the signs put there did so untruthfully. To obtain a solidified, guaranteed parking spot. The actual handicap person, one of three of the individuals that reside at 173 Park Street. Cannot even walk the distance from the back door they use to the spot.

The residents that petitioned for this handicap sign own two cars. A Black Jeep plate # 77z11 and a Grey Jeep Plate # 2AXY79. They park one in the driveway of the property and the other one on the side of 180 Park on Morgan Street. Not to sure what lie was issued to the commission about the need for a sign here but clearly it is just that a misuse of someone else's Handicap Parking Placard to obtain the spot for personal use and not the actual handicap person. Who keep in mind can't walk the distance from the residence to the car on Morgan. How is this benefiting the handicap person? How does it make sense to agree to allow this to even be?

Keep in mind that there is a driveway on the property of 173 Park Street. That they have full access to since they have lived there and continue to have access and use to. As they have been utilizing for the handicap individual prior to these signs going up. It provides the least steps for them. This handicap individual does not drive. Nor can they just about walk. The concern is not about the handicap individual. It is about the fact that the handicap individual's status is and was used to obtain the signs under false pretenses. They serve no purpose other than solidifying a guaranteed parking spot for the (non handicap) resident who resides at 173 Park Street.

It makes absolutely no sense and no justification for a sign being allowed to be put here.

1. It isn't even for the person intended or it's purpose for someone with a handicap. I could see if they actually didn't have use of the driveway, then it would actually make sense. But the fact that they do and continue to is a game changer in this whole thing. How this justifies signs going up when use of the drive way is allowed and utilized is something to be looked at. They are getting the best of both worlds. Use of a driveway as a tenant and guaranteed off street parking by use of the signs.
2. The residents have access and full use of the driveway that provides the fewest steps to and from the entry for the actual handicap person in that house.
3. Us residents that live on Morgan Street have extreme difficulties with parking as it is. To now have a sign for handicap parking erected for someone that it is not even being utilized for is wrong. The reason that was given to the board is clearly a lie. The only logical reason this was done was to guarantee this individual (non handicap) a guaranteed parking spot by the use of the Handicap individuals status to obtain it.

As you know fraudulently utilizing someone else's handicap placard is illegal. Not too sure if that applies to obtain a guaranteed parking spot. It is disingenuous and quite frankly pretty sad. The misuse of a persons handicap placard for personal gain is egregious and wrong. What is worse is that the City of New Bedford allows people to get away with this, without investigating the legitimacy of the request?

It has to stop at some point. People such as these residents of 173 Park Street who have the ability to park in the driveway and do and continue too. Which provides the fewest steps to the entry for the actual handicap person? They should not be granted handicap parking in order to solidify a guaranteed parking spot for themselves and everyone else in the neighborhood is now left to fend for themselves even more so now that nearly half that side of the street is taken up with illegitimate signage posing as if it is being intended for the actual use when it is not. Especially being the fact that they live all the way across the street!!!!!!!!!!

If the city would take the time to come and look for themselves you will certainly see for yourself what is described in this letter. There is no need for a residential handicap parking sign all the way across the street from the residence. Furthest distance for the handicap individual. Who they use the back door entry and exit of the home. This makes absolutely no sense and is quite frustrating.

I understand that the residents of 180 Park Street had to grant 173 Park Street permission to erect a sign on their property. Even they too are aware of its real intended purpose. Solidification of a guaranteed parking spot for the residents of 173 Park Street.

How is this is justifiable is mind boggling. It makes absolutely no sense and is wrong. The more sensible thing to do is what is actually being done now. By the residents of 173 Park St... And that is utilizing the driveway with the distance for the handicap individual being the fewest steps to the entrance. They park one car in the driveway and the other on the street.

To allow this is egregious and unfair to those of us that live on Morgan Street. If the city of New Bedford is going to just give out handicap parking signs so people can solidify a guaranteed parking spot. Then maybe we should all have that luxury and ask the city for guarantee parking spots for the rest of the neighborhood.

The city should do more investigating before just voting yay to a petition for someone who is abusing the system. Yet denying the poor individual with pins and rods in her extremities a residential handicap sign in front of her dwelling argued by Linda Morad back in January.

Maybe someone should actually come and look for themselves at the black SUV that belongs to the first floor residents of 173 Park Street. And the Grey SUV that now has a guaranteed parking spot. Courtesy of the traffic commission. Leaving the rest of us that live on Morgan Street to now find parking further away from our dwelling. While someone that doesn't even live on this side of the street gets guaranteed parking spot.

Especially in the winter being that is the side of the street we have to park on when snow ban is in affect. Hopefully the city will actually do the right thing and not allow this to remain. It is wrong!!! Hopefully the elected Ward counselors below will get involved and advocate for what is right. Please keep in mind this is not benefiting the handicap individual what so ever. All it is benefiting is residents that clearly don't even live on this street nor do they suffer any disability and walk that distance to their home just fine.

There is an obvious lack of consideration by this resident for those that actually live on Morgan Street. Now their intention backed up by the city to allow these signs to even be put here. When they have use of the driveway. All this is has done is create more difficulty for others and luxury parking for someone who lied to obtain it. And lives all the way across the damn street. So much for neighborly courtesy and consideration of how it is affecting others. Especially when the purpose intended is fraudulent, self serving and down right wrong. With the exception of Ms. Morad Mr. Ward Counselors this is your area do your job!

**Respectfully,
Resident of Morgan Street without Luxury Parking**

**Cc: Linda Morad
Cc: Derek Baptiste
Cc: Scott Lima**