



MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners of the Lincolnwood Traffic Commission

FROM: Jay Parrott, Chief of Police

DATE: February 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Overnight Resident Only On-Street Parking in Lincolnwood

Background

Concerns on existing parking regulations within the Village were brought up at various Board meetings and outside discussions with the Village President on restricting overnight parking within the Village. This discussion encompasses restricting parking overnight for safety, ease of snow removal by public works and other infrastructure issues that may need to be dealt with on Village roadways. Additionally, concerns were raised about households that have what appear to be an excessive number of vehicles occupying parking on the right of way within the Village. In the past, vehicles registering with other municipalities have been parked in Lincolnwood for excessive periods of time.

In 2021, the Village Code was amended to address the issue of vehicles being left unmoved on the public right of way by adopting restrictions that a vehicle is considered abandoned and may be cited and removed by the Police Department if the vehicle is not moved for seven consecutive days or after 48 hours without a valid state registration on the vehicle. This change to the Village Code was cultivated due to concerns of both residents and non-residents leaving vehicles parked within the public right of way of Lincolnwood for extended periods of time, with some vehicles becoming a particular eye-sore due to their age and condition.

Staff examined other municipalities' parking restrictions on the public way through surveys conducted with the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC). Additionally, staff did research to determine what restrictions exist for overnight parking within the north and northwest suburbs. The following restrictions were identified:

- Arlington Heights – 2 a.m.- 5 a.m.
- Barrington – 1 a.m.-6 a.m.
- Cicero – 3 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Deerfield – 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Glencoe - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Glenview - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m. (December 1st thru March 31st)

- Harwood Heights - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Highland Park - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Kenilworth - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Mount Prospect – 2 a.m. – 5 a.m.
- Northfield - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
- Wilmette – 2 a.m. – 5 a.m.

The listed suburbs that prohibit overnight parking with varying hours have limited exceptions for guests or residents themselves, such as a vehicle in need of a repair, overnight stays by guests or relatives, and construction to the residence or driveway. The waiver for parking requires prior notification to the Village or Police Department and approval either by calling or using an online portal such as Frontline Public Safety Software that allows a resident to input the vehicle's registration information and verify their resident status.

Surrounding area municipalities such as Skokie, Morton Grove and Niles do not have overnight time restrictions for on-street public parking. Evanston and Chicago have many residential zones or districts that require permits during certain hours or days or anytime. In cases where restrictions are in place, a guest permit, usually in the form of a review mirror cardboard hanger, are purchased at a cost to the resident having a guest or operating a vehicle that does not have an affixed permit. The City of Berwyn appears to be the only Chicago area community that has resident only parking from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. each night. The Town of Cicero has a similar provision, but it does not encompass all town roadways; some are restricted to residents and other roadways have exceptions that may or may not include permits.

Further research shows that no municipality has restrictions on vehicle ownership limits per household or by licensed drivers within the household. This information was gathered in a survey from the NWMC in 2024 and again in 2025.

The Village of Lincolnwood has certain resident only parking restrictions on designated blocks as defined and indicated within the Village Code. Those designated areas have a commonality of being near or adjacent to a commercial property that has impacted the residents' ability to park on the residential street they live on.

When parking restrictions are reviewed for potential approval, the Lincolnwood Traffic Commission uses and continually applies parking restrictions based on justification. This is based on guidance from our legal counsel and the data should support the restriction. The current application used by the Village is consistent with Chicago's application for resident only parking zones - at least 45% of the vehicles parked on the block must be from non-residents of the block, at least 85% of the parking is consumed during that time-period of restriction being requested, and 80% of the residents on that block must agree to imposing the restriction.

The Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/11-80-2a, expressly allows any municipality to impose residential zone parking which may include time limits, permit requirements or other restrictions within residential zones. Restrictions should have data to support an ordinance if challenged. In conclusion, Lincolnwood could impose such a restriction legally.

Staff's review of this type of restriction if imposed raises several questions:

- Should there be a Village-wide implementation vs. a residential permit zone?
- What will be the threshold for establishing a residential permit zone?
- How will this system be managed? Proactive enforcement vs. complaint based.
- How to manage residents that have take-home work-related vehicles?
- Implications on staff time such as registration, tracking and compliance/enforcement?

Upon staff's presentation at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 18, 2025, the Village Board, by consensus, referred the matter to the Traffic Commission for consideration.

Recommendation

Staff is seeking input from the Traffic Commission on this topic and public feedback at a subsequent meeting.

Documents Attached

1. PowerPoint Presentation

OVERNIGHT
RESIDENT ONLY ON-STREET
VILLAGE PARKING

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 26, 2026



Timeline for Discussion

- Discussion was presented at the November 18, 2025, Committee of the Whole
- The Village Board gave a consensus to refer this matter to the Traffic Commission for consideration
- Consideration from Traffic Commission will be presented in multiple meetings
- February 2026 meeting is an initial presentation and discussion
- April 2026 Traffic Commission meeting intended for public comment and discussion

Current Residential Street Parking

- No restrictions are currently in place with exception of the existing commercial vehicle ordinance that prohibits commercial vehicles from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. on all Village roadways.
- Resident only parking exists on 13 streets from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and two other streets with varying times with all but one having exceptions for Sundays and holidays. One street has 24-hour resident only parking.

Residential Parking Restrictions

- Prohibition of Commercial Vehicles 7 p.m. -7 a.m.
- Resident Only Parking – Defined in Village Code
 - Impacted by nearby commercial businesses
- Village Code Modified in 2021 – Abandoned Vehicles
 - Vehicles must be moved after seven (7) days
 - Vehicles can be cited after no movement for seven (7) days or two (2) days without valid state registration
- Vehicles registered in Lincolnwood must have valid Village vehicle stickers and will be cited if parked on the public right of way for failing to display a valid vehicle sticker
- In 2025, the Illinois Secretary of State showed an estimated 12,300 vehicles registered to an address in Lincolnwood

NWMC Surveys

- Prohibition of overnight parking in most suburbs: List on next slide
- Suburbs that prohibit overnight parking have limited exceptions for guests or residents themselves, such as vehicle needs repairs, overnight stays, and construction to the residence or driveway. Requires prior notification and approval by calling the Village/Police Department or using an online portal such as Frontline Public Safety Software.
- Berwyn is the only known Village within the Chicago Area based on research that has on-street overnight parking for residents only from 3 a.m.- 6 a.m. Cicero has a similar provision, but it does not include all roadways within the Town of Cicero.
 - Exceptions to this restriction are Skokie, Morton Grove, Niles, Evanston (has residential districts) & Lincolnwood
- Restrictions on Vehicle Ownership Limit per Household or by Licensed Driver: None reported in 2024 and 2025 based on a survey with the Northwest Municipal Conference.

NWMC Surveys

- The following municipalities have overnight restrictions on street parking:
 - Arlington Heights – 2 a.m.- 5 a.m.
 - Barrington – 1 a.m.-6 a.m.
 - Deerfield – 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
 - Glencoe - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
 - Glenview - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m. (December 1st thru March 31st)
 - Harwood Heights - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
 - Highland Park - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
 - Kenilworth - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
 - Mount Prospect – 2 a.m. – 5 a.m.
 - Northfield - 2 a.m. – 6 a.m.
 - Wilmette – 2 a.m. – 5 a.m.
- Most allow exemptions when prior approval is obtained and is limited to short periods of time

Legal Standard for Restricting Parking

- The Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/11-80-2a, expressly allows any municipality to impose residential zone parking which may include time limits, permit requirements or other restrictions within residential zones
- Restrictions should have data to support an ordinance if challenged
- Legally allowed to restrict parking

Resident Only Parking Requirements

- Petition to have resident only parking with 80% of households favoring the restriction
- 45% of the existing on street parking is occupied by non-residents of the block during the prohibited time frame
- 85% of the available parking is utilized during the times of the requested restriction
- Most existing restrictions are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with some exceptions and one location restricted 24-hours a day
- Traffic Commission Review and Recommendation for Approval
- Approval by Village Board

Staff Recommendations

- Item referred to the Traffic Commission by the Village Board
- No action being sought at this time
- Items to be considered by the Traffic Commission:
 - Village wide implementation vs. residential permit zones?
 - What will be the threshold for establishing a residential permit zone?
 - How will this system be managed? Proactive enforcement vs. complaint based
 - How to manage residents that have take-home work vehicles?
 - Implications on staff time such as registration, tracking and compliance/enforcement?

Questions, Comments & Discussion
