

PKTs. 2-07-2020

Malachi Rothlisberger
3915 Mortensen Rd, Ames, IA 50014

January 13, 2020

Mrs. Gloria Betcher
City Council Member and Ward 1 Representative
515 Clark Avenue

Dear City Council Member, Mrs. Betcher,

Over the past month, I have spent time looking through the Iowa code and the Ames Municipal Code. In my research, I came upon a regulation mentioned on the Ames website on the Frequently Asked Questions page. The ordinance I found was section 18.15 of the Ames Municipal Code. (The full ordinance can be found at <https://www.cityofames.org/home/showdocument?id=268>) The ordinance in short, reads, no residents are allowed to park any vehicles on their front yard(s). This is concerning to me as a resident of Ames.

I understand the need to keep our amazing city clean and looking nice. If people leave old, broken down cars on their front lawn, it makes the city look bad. It can also be an environmental hazard. Old cars that can't run anymore still can leak oil, killing the grass. Rusty cars can be harmful to children playing on the sidewalks. But what about the working vehicles that get used? It is not uncommon for families to have more vehicles than they can fit in their garage and driveway. This means that homeowners have to park their cars on the street. This would not be a problem if it weren't for section 18.9 of the Ames Municipal Code, which states that no one is permitted to park in the same place on city property for 48 or more hours.

I would expect that the property owners of Ames would be able to use their property as they deem necessary. This includes placing vehicles on privately owned property. This is my proposal. I propose the ordinance section 18.15 of the Ames Municipal Code be amended to allow vehicles to be parked on a property owner's front yard as long as the vehicle follows a series of requirements. These include, but are not limited to:

- There may only be one vehicle in the front yard.
- The vehicle must be operable and held up by inflated tires. It can not be held up by jacks, blocks, or other supports.
- The vehicle must be owned or leased by the owner of the property.
- It must be registered for operation on the street.
- It must be relatively clean and there may not be serious damage to it.

I realize I am not an adult (yet) but I would still be happy to give recommendations on what requirements could be set for the vehicles parked in a front yard. You can contact me at 885947rot@ames.k12.ia.us.

In my research, I compared the current Ames ordinance with an ordinance of Norwalk, Iowa concerning the same topic. The city of Norwalk allows residents to park their vehicles on the

front yard of where they are residing as long as the vehicle follows a series of requirements. I think that the city of Norwalk has a very well written ordinance that allows property owners to park their vehicles on their front yard and still keeps the city clean and looking nice. The city has several requirements for the vehicles that are being parked on the front yards. The ordinance can be found at http://qcode.us/codes/norwalk/view.php?topic=10-10_08&frames=on.

I understand that if you decide to bring this forward to the Ames City Council, according to Ames Municipal Code Section 2.20-2.22 the proposal will go through two council meetings before the final one. In the council meetings, the passage for the proposal will be voted upon. If the passage for the amendment is voted for the amendment will go to the final meeting where it will be decided whether to amend the ordinance or not.

Thank you Mrs. Betcher, for your time in reading this letter. I hope you will take my proposal into consideration. I think that Ames is a wonderful city and I am proud to live here and call myself an Ames resident.

Sincerely,



Malachi Rothlisberger