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Department of Planning & Housing

**TO:** Mayor and Ames City Council Members

**FROM:** Department of Planning and Housing

**DATE:** December 31, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Alley Parking Changes Referral for 2724 Northridge Lane in Somerset

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council referred an email to staff from Byron and Beverly Schulke at the October 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting (see attached). The Schulke's request that the City either remove parking adjacent to their house or create a time limit for parking with rigid enforcement. The Schulke are not interested in making changes on their property to screen the existing parking spaces.

The Somerset was approved by the City Council with a substantial number of parking spaces situated off the private alleys along with this one public alley. The alley behind 2724 Northridge Lane is a public right-of-way rather than a private alley as is the case for all other alleys in Somerset. This public alley also includes 90-degree parking spaces abutting 2724 Northridge Lane and a similar bank of spaces two lots to the north. These parking spaces are similar to the other private parking areas in the area. These parking spaces were approved as part of the Final Plat for the 13<sup>th</sup> Addition

As public right-of-way, City Council can control allowances for parking at this location through an ordinance. However, it appears that the City Council has not received any other complaints about the utilization of this type of parking arrangement in the subdivision.

Alternatively, City Council could direct City Staff to physically adjust the parking area to only allow for parallel parking vs. 90-degree parking. Parallel parking may reduce some of the negative experiences identified by the homeowner.

No action is needed if City Council is satisfied with the current condition and regulation of parking in this area.

Pkts. 10-16-2020

Date 9-3-2020

From Byron and Beverly Schulke  
2724 Northridge Lane  
232-5556  
[bkschulke@yahoo.com](mailto:bkschulke@yahoo.com)

Subject: Parking Lot on the east side of Lot 19 Somerset 13<sup>th</sup> Addition. Address: 2724 Northridge Lane

To: Mayor and Ames City Council:

We have been researching on how why and who granted the developers of this addition permission to install this parking lot at this location. What we do know is that there is an easement for a sanitary sewer on the east side of said lot. We have told that this is a public parking lot and that it does not belong to the Somerset Townhouse/Rowhouse Association.

After several visits with personnel in Planning and Housing we have NOT been successful in our endeavor.

The major problem with this lot is that there a few residents that use it inappropriately IE. leaving vehicles for a long period of time. We are tired of calling the police on every occasion that this occurs. There are several other irritations like opening the blinds on our windows and seeing a used car lot and also having the sun reflect off the car windows into our house.

It should be noted that every residence along this public alley (or Eaton Avenue as is known) has a double garage for two vehicles (if not used for other purposes) and a driveway long enough to park an additional four vehicles. Why they cannot use their available parking spaces is beyond our comprehension.

Our best solution would have the said parking removed or at the very least that parking be limited to from 8:00 am to 11.59 pm with rigid enforcement by the police.

***Byron & Beverly Schulke***

# Location Map

