

Six weeks ago, I addressed the City Council and told them that I would be unable to comply with the new street-sweeping parking restriction, since I own four vehicles but I can only fit three in my garage and driveway. My husband owns his own business and works from home, and my work schedule allows me to be at home to care for my two small children. Therefore, our cars are regularly at our home on street-sweeping days and we require street parking. The city has said repeatedly that it is up to each resident to figure out how to “adjust” to the new resolution. After dozens of emails and phone calls, my problem has still not been resolved. The City has clarified that I will not be ticketed for any vehicle that sticks out into the street after being partially parked in my very short driveway, but it still has not provided me with a safe, reasonable place to legally put my fourth car on street-sweeping days.

Since I continued to press the issue, it was finally suggested this week that I park at the Downtown Brea parking structure. This parking garage is about a mile and a half from my home. I would ask that the council members walk in my shoes for a month. You should block off your own, long driveways and try moving your cars to the parking garage and leaving them overnight every week for just one month. I’m sure you won’t mind losing access to your private property, or putting your property at risk for vandalism or theft, or giving up hours of your personal time as you make the long treks to both drop off and pick up your cars. I have a feeling that if YOU tried to do what you’ve suggested *I* do, then you would quickly determine that is not a solution at all, and that “adjusting” isn’t as simple as you make it sound.

It has repeatedly been suggested that we just listen for the street sweeper and drive around while it does our street. Not only is this supposed “solution” unreasonable as a long-term solution (especially for anyone with small children), it is unsafe and it is simply impossible for someone with multiple cars that require street parking.

I have also been told “Run an errand at that time, that’s why you have a car!” First of all, even if I did leave for a while, I would have no idea whether or not it is safe for me to park once I return because it is impossible to tell whether or not the street sweeper has already been there, so I would have to stay away from my home until after 2 pm. In addition, our street sweeper has been coming to our neighborhood anywhere between 11 am and 1:30 pm over the past month. Every Monday at 12:10 I am walking across the street to pick up my son from kindergarten. Sometimes we come straight home and sometimes we linger to speak with his teacher, visit with other Fanning parents or even spend an hour playing outside before coming home and having lunch. Therefore, this is NOT a time when I will be “running errands” and I don’t feel it’s the government’s role to tell me how to spend my time on Mondays for the rest of my life.

I would like to know why the City Council has insisted on sweeping every street in the entire city every week. NPDES compliance does not require such a frequency, nor does it require that the streets be free of cars. In a large number of cities I’ve surveyed, street sweeping is done twice per month so it is not as costly and the parking restrictions are not as intrusive. Brea has refused this option but has not provided any rationale for this unilateral decision.

I would like to know why the City Council has insisted on a “one size fits all” approach when implementing the new parking restrictions. Why have no unique solutions been provided for

unique neighborhoods like mine, which is on a steep hill filled with cul-de-sacs and very short driveways?

I would like to know why the City Council has refused to consider exemptions for those residents who are experiencing undue hardships. Other cities, such as Garden Grove, have issued such exemptions, and most other cities have developed more reasonable ordinances than Brea's. What possible justification is there for the City Council to ignore the hardships of Brea residents?

I am disappointed to see that the City Council has not included this issue on any agenda since I brought the matter to its attention at the September first meeting. While I have been told that the city staff is looking into solutions for difficult neighborhoods, I have also been told that NO exemptions are being considered, other than temporary ones for temporary situations. It seems that those of us with permanent situations are permanently out of luck.

Thank you for your time.