

STUDY SESSION
Residential Parking Permit “Forsyth”
Public Safety 2025 Update
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, October 27, 2025
5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Study Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, October 27, 2025, in the absence of Mayor Terry Crow, Mayor Pro Tem Smotherson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Mayor Pro Tem, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay
Councilmember John Tieman
Councilmember Steven McMahon; (excused)
Councilmember Lisa Brenner
Councilmember Dennis Fuller

Also in attendance were City Manager Gregory Rose; City Attorney John F. Mulligan, Jr., and Police Chief Larry Hampton.

2. CHANGES TO REGULAR AGENDA

None

3. RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT “FORSYTH”

Mr. Rose stated this is a discussion regarding a petition that was received in excess of two years ago, for Residential Parking Permits on the south side of Forsyth. Mr. Mulligan has been asked to start this discussion by providing a background to help Council gain a better understanding of the process.

Mr. Mulligan stated this issue goes back to at least October of 2021, when Ms. Chana Novack, the Director of Friends of Chabad on Campus, approached the Traffic Commission to request that her employees be included in the Residential Parking system. Friends of Chabad is located at 7018 Forsyth, and her specific request was to allow employees to park in the 7000 block of Forsyth and change the parking restrictions to allow for open parking on Fridays after 5 p.m. The Commission advised Ms. Novack that she would have to pursue the petition process outlined in Section 355.030 of the Municipal Code's Residential Parking Permit Plan. Ms. Novack followed that advice and came back to the Traffic Commission on April 13, 2022, seeking approval to begin the process, which now included the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Forsyth Avenue. The Commission approved her request and allowed Ms. Novack to initiate the next step of obtaining the requisite number of signatures for the petition. The Code requires that signatures be obtained from at least 75% of the parcel owners adjacent to the blocks in question. After securing these signatures, Ms. Novack returned to the Traffic Commission on December 13, 2022. The Commission conducted numerous discussions during several meetings and on March 8th of 2023, approved the petition and recommended that Council adopt an Ordinance adding the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Forsyth into the Residential Parking Program, and that it be limited to residents only, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

On May 8th of 2023, the Council introduced Bill Number 9514 to adopt the Commission's recommendation. Thereafter, Council unanimously passed a motion to send the issue back to the Traffic Commission *"to discuss the deficiencies in the system and any revisions that could be made to*

implement more controls that limit or differentiate between the various parking cells". At the conclusion of a three-month pilot program, the Commission voted in March of 2025 to recommend that the Residential Parking Permit Ordinance be adopted, *"taking into consideration the challenges of multi-family use"*. There were no specific recommendations regarding multi-family use, but as Council may be aware, the 7000 and 7100 blocks on the south side of Forsyth are all multi-family. However, two issues that were discussed by the Commission during the various meetings leading up to their March recommendation were whether this would be feasible given the multi-family nature of the neighborhood and whether there would be enough spaces on the street to accommodate the potential users.

Mr. Mulligan stated that the Ordinance allows a resident to obtain permits for each registered vehicle, as well as two visitor passes. So, the challenge is that potentially, you could be talking about a lot of passes for a limited amount of street parking. In spite of the fact that the Commission made no specific recommendations on this issue, it continued to conduct numerous internal discussions and reaffirmed its previous recommendation on September 9, 2025.

Mr. Rose thanked Mr. Mulligan and stated that he would like to talk about the next steps in this process.

Staff believes that the best solution to this lack of parking issue is to create more parking. However, there does not seem to be a viable path forward to achieving additional parking. With that in mind, he thinks the best option is to make an attempt to improve the current parking situation in this area. In order to do that, staff will implement one or perhaps two studies to determine if these proposed changes will actually improve parking. The study will consist of;

- A 90-day period
- Parking on the south side of Forsyth in the 7000 and 7100 blocks on a restricted permit basis
- Each resident will be issued a temporary permit to be utilized on a first-come, first-served basis
- Visitor parking will be severely restricted
- Additional patrols will be assigned during the study period to ensure compliance

Temporary Residential passes are expected to total approximately 300 residents, for about 37 on-street parking spaces. However, the vast majority of dwellings in this area have off-street parking, so residents will be encouraged to use that parking.

Mr. Rose stated that while staff will present the results of this study during a Study Session, the purpose of tonight's presentation is to provide Council with an opportunity to address any questions they might have regarding this approach.

Councilmember Brenner stated the Ordinance itself says if they get a residential permit, there's no guarantee there's a parking space for them. So, that is covered. Perhaps, we need to tweak the Ordinance by changing the wording under (H). One thought is have whoever owns the property gets the 2 visitors passes. For single family residents that would be a big change. But for the apartments, the owner would have possession, and they could determine who they want to deal with giving them out. She stated that there have also been some concerns about these passes being copied and sold, which could easily be fixed by putting a U City hologram sticker on them.

Councilmember Fuller posed the following questions to Mr. Mulligan:

Q. Are there two residential permit programs now; one on the north side and one on the south side?

A. No residential parking restrictions exist on the south side. But on the north side, single-family residential parking is permitted in the 7000 through 7200 blocks of Forsyth.

Q. So, the Residential Parking Permit Program on the north side has been in existence since roughly 2023?

A. That is correct.

Councilmember Smotherson posed the following questions to Mr. Rose:

Q. Is parking going to be restricted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the 90-day study period?

A. Permitted parking will be allowed throughout the entire day.

Q. Does that resolve the issue for Ms. Novack and her employees? Will they be issued permits?

A. I don't recall if her petition actually requested that they be given permits.

A. (Mr. Mulligan): The initial request in October of 2021 was to participate in the program so that her employees and visitors of Chabad could park there. When she appeared in April, she made it clear that at the time she had four employees that she was seeking a pass for. That raised the question of whether an employee should be considered a resident within the meaning of the Ordinance, which only allows residents to obtain a pass? Based on that language, the position of the Police Department has been not to issue parking passes to employees. However, if the Council wants to allow the employees of an institution within a residential parking permit area to obtain passes, then he would recommend amending the Ordinance to state that. But as it stands, his understanding is that during this pilot program, employers will not be given passes for their employees.

A. (Mr. Rose): That is correct. Staff needs to take an incremental approach to better understand what's going on. That's why two studies might be needed. The belief is that currently there is a deficit in parking, even with the off-street parking, and these studies will either confirm that belief or refute it.

Councilmember Smotherson stated the real problem is that they are trying to stop Wash U employees and students from parking on that section of Forsyth. So, he hopes that we can continue to have restricted parking from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with passes only being provided to residents, because that's the critical time of day when these infractions occur. He also agreed that no visitor passes should be issued since typically, those visitations occur after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

To recap, Mr. Rose stated that during the test period, Residential Parking Permits will be required from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the City will not issue any visitor passes. Hopefully, that will address the concerns about passes being duplicated.

4. PUBLIC SAFETY 2025 UPDATE

Mr. Rose stated that this update will be presented by Chief Hampton.

Chief Hampton stated that his presentation encompasses January through October of 2025.

Overcoming Trends - Innovative Strategies for UCPD:

Every public safety agency in the state is fighting to recruit quality personnel.

St. Louis City PD is down approximately 300 officers, and St. Louis County PD, which is reducing its budget for the upcoming year, is down at least 150 officers.

- Ground-level recruiting
 - Recruitment of focus group members' grandchild straight out of Southeast Missouri State University
 - Hiring event at Centennial Commons
 - ✓ Written exam
 - ✓ Physical exam
 - ✓ Interview
- Sowing the Seed - Investing
 - UCPD is one of the largest departments investing in the recruitment of personnel throughout multiple public safety academies; four candidates at Eastern Missouri, 2 candidates at Jefferson Community College, 3 candidates at Lincoln University, and 3 candidates at St. Louis County
- Maintaining a Professional Organization - Culture
- Providing Consistency for our Community

- Developing Quality UCPD Employees with Best Practices
 - UCPD does not lose a lot of its personnel to other police departments; they are recruited by federal organizations; Probation & Parole, Postal Inspectors, DEA, ATF, and the Secret Service
- Making Gen Y & Gen Z Employees know their “WHY”

Understanding the Problems

- Make genuine attempts to connect with our stakeholders, residents, and our neighbors.... We recruit everywhere!
 - UCPD sponsors community events
 - Officers participate in their community's events
- Resignations and retirements [rose sharply](#) after 2020, when nationwide protests ensued from the tragic George Floyd events in Minneapolis.
 - You can retire from UCPD and receive a maximum pension with thirty years of service, so when officers leave with 27, 28, or 29 years of service, it's because they need to get out for personal reasons.
- Additionally, some officers are [leaving](#) big-city departments for smaller, less active agencies.
 - UCPD is a working department that encompasses every aspect of law enforcement
 - Some experts say, police agencies are competing in a tight labor market because shift jobs may be less appealing than positions with regular hours, higher pay, or remote work options.

UCPD on the Move

UCPD takes a lot of aerial drone footage that has been highlighted in some of the slides.

- The flood
- Body camera footage
- Coffee with the cops
- Active Intruder Training; conducted yearly
 - U City employees
 - UCPD officers & employees
- Active Intruder Practicum forthcoming
 - UCPD officers & employees
 - U City facility staff
 - Public school
 - Old Torah Prep
 - Coordination with other local agencies for large-scale exercises
 - ✓ See something, Say something
 - ✓ Run, Hide, Fight
 - ✓ Situational awareness
 - ✓ Floor sweeps

Recruitment & Retention

Modernize Recruitment:

Implement strategic, data-driven recruitment to attract a diverse and qualified talent pool, including strong partnerships with educational institutions and community groups.

- Recruitment recommendations
- Daily review of applications
- Digital resources; Ucitymo.org, Applicant Pro

Enhance Compensation & Benefits:

Increase salaries, offer retention bonuses, and provide better health and retirement benefits to make law enforcement a more attractive and sustainable career.

Invest in Officer Wellness:

Develop programs that support the physical and mental health of officers, which can improve job satisfaction and reduce turnover.

- The Faith in Blue Campaign was conducted with 30 organizations

Foster Professional Growth:

Provide structured opportunities for career advancement and specialized training.

Utilize Civilian Staff:

Shift administrative, dispatch, and other non-policing duties to civilian staff to free up sworn officers for core law enforcement functions.

Leverage Technology:

Implement predictive policing tools, automated reporting systems, etc.

Reallocate Resources:

Deploy officers to areas and roles where they are most needed, ensuring effective resource allocation to meet community demands.

Incorporate Volunteers & Reserves:

Integrate community volunteer programs and engagement efforts.

- Three chaplains
- Retired Captain Carol Jackson
- Internships
- Four from the Citizens' Police Academy

UCPD Staff

- 74 police officers - (*allocations for 79 officers*)
- 10 full-time dispatchers - (*allocations for 12 dispatchers*)
- 5 part-time dispatchers
- Several officers started as dispatchers
- 2 full-time code comp officers
- 1 part-time parking controller
- 1 full-time parking controller
 - ✓ Police trainees and a retired sergeant used to supplement the controllers
- 7 administrative clerks

UCPD Crime Stats

Incident Type	2016	2017	Change	2017	2018	Change	2018	2019	Change	2019	2020	Change	2020	2021	Change	2021	2022	Change	2022	2023	Change	2023	2024	Change
Homicide	3	3	0%	3	1	-66.67%	1	2	100%	2	6	200%	6	5	-16.67%	5	2	-60%	2	2	0	2	1	-50%
Rape	9	3	-66.67%	3	6	100%	6	2	-66.67%	2	4	100%	4	6	50%	6	7	16.67%	7	3	-57.14%	3	6	100%
Robbery	77	60	-22.08%	60	36	-40.00%	36	27	-25.00%	27	40	48.14%	40	19	-52.50%	19	19	0	19	18	-5.26%	18	14	-22.22%
Aggravated Assault	99	89	-10.10%	89	48	-46.07%	48	55	14.58%	55	60	9.09%	60	30	-50%	30	58	93.33%	58	49	-15.51%	49	72	46.94%
Burglary	230	225	-2.17%	225	128	-43.11%	128	109	-14.84%	109	86	-21.10%	86	60	-30.23%	60	48	-20%	48	42	-12.50%	42	30	-28.57%
Larceny	1044	879	-15.80%	879	901	2.50%	901	880	-2.33%	808	615	-23.88%	615	488	-20.65%	488	510	4.50%	510	561	9.80%	561	465	-17.11%
Motor Vehicle Theft	137	111	-18.98%	111	106	-4.50%	106	140	32.08%	140	130	-7.14%	130	122	-6.15%	122	212	73.77%	212	208	-1.88%	208	80	-61.53%
Arson	6	9	50%	9	6	-33.33%	6	5	-16.67%	5	9	80%	9	3	-66.66%	3	5	66.66%	5	3	-40%	3	2	-33.33%
Total	1605	1379	-14.08%	1379	1232	-10.66%	1232	1220	-0.97%	1220	950	-22.13%	950	733	-22.84%	733	861	17.46%	861	886	2.90%	886	670	-24.37%

- Major Crimes tracked include Homicides, Rapes, Robberies, Assaults, Burglaries, Larcenies, Auto Thefts, & Arsons
- **From 2016 to 2024, there was a -58.28% decrease in crime**
- Additional reductions in crime are anticipated for 2025
- During COVID, there was a tremendous rise in Assaults and Domestic Disturbances
- UCPD anticipates a rise in crimes associated with new retail developments
- Regional Trends are often addressed collaboratively (SLAPCA, MRT, RCC, etc.)
 - Chief Hampton is on the board of several municipal police agencies
 - Chief Hampton is an executive board member for the St. Louis area's Police Chiefs' Association
- Maintaining effective policies, training, procedures, oversight, and essential skill sets to deal with everything from crisis control to minor infractions has assisted UCPD personnel in being successful
- UCPD is currently going through its reaccreditation process

Take-A Ways

- Consistent public safety strategies done right help define community values
- Community Engagement at every level sets the tone for collaboration
 - UCPD liaisons are assigned to several of the City's boards & commissions
- Be Right – Do Right – Look Right
 - Quality employees are the target
 - Quality over Quantity

Mayor Pro Tem Smotherson thanked Chief Hampton for his presentation.

Councilmember Clay stated that in his roughly eight years on Council, he has received nothing but favorable comments about the UCPD, and believes the City is fortunate to have a police force that has not suffered some of the challenges that other departments have.

He then posed the following questions to Chief Hampton:

Q. Is it a fair assessment to say that from a public safety perspective, the UCPD has developed a robust relationship with Wash U?

A. *Yes. Recently, I was on a thread with several employees of Wash U, strategizing about the potential for protests at the University. So yes, it would be a fair assessment to say that we have an active relationship.*

Q. What do you see as challenges or improvements that could make the relationship with Wash U even better?

A. *Collaboration between the two entities has definitely increased, and today, approximately 20% of Wash U's Police Department consists of retired UCPD police officers.*

Q. From a community development perspective, where does the administration's code compliance stop and the UCPD's code compliance begin?

A. *(Mr. Rose): The demarcation for code compliance and code enforcement, which he is hopeful will merge again, is designed like this: code compliance, which operates under the UCPD, focuses on environmental issues, like weeds, grass, or anything outside of the home. Code enforcement, which operates under Planning & Zoning, focuses on anything that is in the home or considered attached to the home.*

Q. So, is it fair to say outside is enforcement and inside is compliance?

A. *(Mr. Rose): That's correct.*

A. *(Chief Hampton): I agree.*

Q. I know that this has been more of a general update, but under your tenure, Council has been asked to invest more in technology. So, between you and the City Manager, I would love to get a better understanding of how this technology; i.e., shot spotters, drones, etc., is supporting your law enforcement practices so that I can articulate that to our constituents?

A. (Mr. Rose): Before the Chief responds to that question, one thing that's important to recognize is the UCPD's focus on excellence. I'm often asked whether we could fill all of the officer positions that are vacant, and I always respond that we certainly could, but it's a whole lot harder when you're trying to fill them with quality individuals. So, what Chief Hampton and I have talked about for eight years is the refusal to lower our standards, and the progress that you're seeing in our Police Department is a direct result of his leadership and the class of individuals that report to him.

A. (Chief Hampton): Technology is costly, but I hold my vendors to the same standards I expect from my department. Let's take the shot spotter, for example. To ensure that the equipment was working properly and servicing our needs, we were able to successfully negotiate an extra year of free service until the end of 2026. Robots are another technology that I plan to introduce in the near future to help service our commercial and business districts.

A. (Mr. Rose): While our focus will always be on ensuring that we continue to hire and promote quality individuals, we also understand there is a limited pool that everyone is trying to pick from. That's why there is a need for the City to start focusing more on how to use technology to support the officers that it has.

Councilmember Fuller complimented the UCPD for developing an impressive educational program. He stated that he participated in the first Citizens' Police Academy class after COVID and would encourage everyone to do so. It was a great eye-opener.

Mayor Pro Tem Smotherson shared his appreciation for the Chief and the efforts for the south side neighbors. How are we collaborating with our north side neighbors i.e., Wellston, Pagedale, Overland, and Olivette? What is our relationship in this regard? Chief Hampton stated that those neighbors all participate in the regional associations i.e. SLACMA, MRT etc., they all collaborate on a regular basis.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Smotherson thanked Chief Hampton for a great presentation and adjourned the Study Session at 6:23 p.m.

Kena Dean,
Acting City Clerk