





Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Shatonya Johnson, Chief of Police 
Tammy Grossman, Director of Development Customer Services
Robert Sproule, Director of Public Works

FOR: President Scaman and Board of Trustees

DATE: December 22, 2022

SUBJECT: Disturbance Calls for Service associated with Mike's Place Sports Bar and Grill at 6319 W. Roosevelt Rd, Berwyn, IL

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding the Village response to issues around Mike's Place Sports Bar and Grill located at 6319 W Roosevelt in Berwyn. This location has been the source of numerous late-night disturbances that have spilled over into Oak Park on the 1150 blocks of S. Cuyler, S. Harvey and S. Highland.

Background

The business at 6319 W. Roosevelt Rd. in Berwyn is currently known as Mike's Place Sports Bar and Grill, but the property itself has been known as several different bars or taverns dating back at least 15 years (Antronio's, Krew Rock Lounge, Bijou's, etc.). Mike's Place is geographically located on Roosevelt Rd. between Cuyler Ave. and Highland Ave. in Berwyn. On the Berwyn side, Cuyler Ave. is a one-way northbound, residential street lined with both a multi-unit building and single-family houses. Highland Ave is a dead-end residential street lined with both multi-unit buildings and single-family houses. The attachment depicts a photo of Cuyler Ave. and Highland Ave. in Berwyn during the daytime, however the parking conditions intensify during the evening hours. Berwyn does not have overnight parking restriction, thus their residents consume street parking prior to and during Mike's Place operational hours.

Since operating primarily as a bar, the location has been the source of numerous complaints from Oak Park residents that live on the 1150 blocks of S Cuyler Ave, S. Highland Ave. and S. Harvey Ave. The residents' complaints center around patrons parking on their blocks while visiting the bar and unruly behavior when returning to their vehicles at closing time. Complaints include public intoxication, fighting, littering, urinating, and other inappropriate behavior. There were three incidents that occurred this year including a shooting on 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. on May 30, 2022 at approximately 1:00 am.

The other two incidents occurred over the recent Thanksgiving weekend. The first incident was a shooting in Berwyn that occurred Friday morning, November 25, 2022 at approximately 12:43 am. Several shell casings were recovered on the sidewalk in front of Mike's Place. Officers from both Oak Park and Berwyn responded, but were unable to locate a victim or any witnesses. The investigation was subsequently closed by Berwyn PD. The second incident involved Oak Park officers responding to a disturbance on the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. the morning of November 27, 2022 at approximately 12:48 am. There was a large group of aggressive, uncooperative subjects fighting in the street. This incident originated in Berwyn, but due to their response time, it spilled over into Oak Park. Berwyn PD indicated that they were "busy" and "would do their best to send a car". It was only after the fire alarm was activated at the bar that Berwyn PD arrived on scene and the bar itself was evacuated. Approximately six Oak Park officers responded to this incident, which took approximately 45 minutes to mitigate.

Feedback from the overnight (1st Watch) Watch Commander suggests that Mike's Place does not appear to be the only source of these complaints. A barber shop that opened approximately two years ago at 6301 W. Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, has on occasion, stayed open late and attracted large crowds as well. Mike's Place is regularly open until 2 am on most weekends. The establishment does not have regularly scheduled events, but does on occasion host private events. The events can occur at any time, and many of the spillover incidents can be directly associated these events.

Village's Past Response

In early 2020, the Community Policing Unit utilized the S.A.R.A. (Scan, Analyze, Respond, Assess) model to identify the root cause and address the residents' concerns with parking complaints, excessive noise and littering from Mike's patrons. This included working the overnight shift, communicating with the owner of Mike's Place, Dollar Tree management and the residents. It was ascertained that Mike's patrons were initially parking in the Dollar Tree's parking lot located at 6226 Roosevelt Rd. Once the lot was full, they would park on the 1150 block of block S. Cuyler Ave. and S. Highland Ave. In November 2020, the Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) collaborated with the residents to secure 'Resident Only' parking restrictions on the 1150 blocks of S. Cuyler Ave. and S. Highland Ave. as a solution to combat the parking complaints. The owner of Mike's Place would direct the DJ to make periodic announcement of the new parking restriction. The NRO deployed the speed trailer and displayed "Resident Only Parking" in an effort to gain compliance.

Subsequently, the parking problem, noise complaints and littering shifted to the 1150 block of S. Harvey Ave. The same restrictions were later implemented on the 1150 block of S. Harvey Ave. in July 2021. Mike's Place owner attempted to foster an agreement with the Dollar Tree Manager to utilize their lot, but the Dollar Tree refused. Parking Enforcement Officers and the beat officers were assigned to conduct strict parking enforcement.

Between February 2021 and December 2022, a total of 2144 parking citations have been issued on 1150 blocks of S. Cuyler Ave, S. Highland Ave. and S. Harvey Ave. for violation of the 'Resident Only' parking restrictions.

A breakdown of the citations by blocks is represented in the graph below.

Zone 1150 Citation Summary 2/2/2021 through 12/20/22			
	Number of citations issued	Number of citations paid	Percentage of citations paid
1150 S. Cuyler Ave.	1,246	462	37.08%
1150 Highland Ave.	791	254	32.11%
1150 S. Harvey Ave.	107	66	61.68%
	2,144	782	36.47%

In addition to enforcing the parking restrictions, the overnight supervisors engaged with the management staff at Mike's Place who agreed to advise Oak Park of their special events in advance. In response to the special events, sergeants assigned the beat officers to monitor the area and report the status of the area to the Watch Commander. When there were no known special events, officers conducted frequent premise checks in the areas of the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave, S. Highland Ave. and S. Harvey Ave. during Mike's operational hours.

In response to the aforementioned shooting over Memorial Day Weekend, Village Staff met with Stacey Hendricks, a resident on the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. on July 7, 2022. During that meeting, several options were discussed including the possibility of installing a cul-de-sac, towing parking violators and coordinating with Berwyn Police Department to develop proactive enforcement. Subsequently, representatives of the Oak Park Police Department met with the Berwyn Chief of Police to discuss potential strategies to address this situation. This did not produce any collaborative enforcement initiatives due to staffing and the number of bars (18) that Berwyn monitors nightly. Berwyn indicated of the 18 bars, Mike's Place is the only African American owned bar and there are concerns of the perception of over policing their predominately African American patrons. Despite a lack of cooperation, the Oak Park police continued to conduct enhanced enforcement.

Resident Requests

Cul-de-sac: Residents on the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. expressed a desire to have a cul-de-sac installed on their block in association with concerns surrounding Mike's Place patrons and to calm traffic.

The Engineering Division has reviewed the traffic data for the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. and based on historical traffic data from 2018, 2003, and 1998, the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. has an average daily traffic volume (AADT) of around 600 cars per day (617 in 2018, 478 in 2003, and 599 in 1998). This traffic volume is on the lower range for typical residential streets in the Village which generally have about 800-1,200 cars per day.

This is likely due to the block north of there being one-way southbound because of the adjacent school.

Traffic on the 1150 block is predominately northbound (493 NB vs. 124 SB) which is a result of the Oak Park Friends daycare at the south end of the block at Roosevelt Rd. The drop off and pickup operations for the daycare generally has cars proceeding north on Cuyler Ave. from Roosevelt Rd. in order to allow for children to not have to cross the street to get into the daycare. Staff also reviewed available crash data from 2016-2021 to determine if there were any traffic safety issues that should be addressed. There has only been one accident on this block (south of alley) in this 6-year period and none at the Fillmore St. & Cuyler Ave. intersection. The Village does not have any recent speed data for this block. Based on the low traffic volumes and lack of accidents on this block, there is no traffic safety issues to be addressed.

Since there are no existing traffic concerns, a cul-de-sac would not help address any existing traffic issues. A cul-de-sac would create traffic safety concerns for the area between Roosevelt Rd. and the alley, since cars dropping off or picking up children at the daycare would no longer be able to proceed northbound on Cuyler Ave. Drivers would be forced to use the alley system which would create conflict points and potential accidents at the uncontrolled intersections in the alley and at the alley intersections at Ridgeland Ave. or Highland Ave. A cul-de-sac would also shift other traffic to the adjacent block of Highland Ave. creating increased traffic on the 1150 block of Highland Ave.

Additionally, the concerns being brought forward by the residents relate primarily to patrons of Mike's Place parking on their block and incidents after the bar is closed related to these patrons while hanging around or returning to their cars. A cul-de-sac will not have any impacts on parking on the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. Patrons will still likely choose to park on this block despite a cul-de-sac without any changes to parking restrictions or enforcement. Staff's analysis indicates the installation of a cul-de-sac on this block will not address any existing traffic issues, will create traffic congestion and safety issues south of the alley, and also is not likely to resolve residents' concerns surrounding Mike's Place. Additionally, the Traffic Safety Mitigation Toolbox does not currently allow for the installation of a cul-de-sac as an approved measure to address traffic safety concerns.

Resident Parking Only Tow-Zones: It has been suggested that the Village escalate the current "Resident Parking Only" enforced with parking fines to a "Resident Parking Only Tow-Zone". This would give the Village the ability to tow vehicles that violate the "Resident Only" parking restriction. The Village does not currently have and has not ever implemented any other no parking tow zones. Implementing a program of this kind would require adoption of an ordinance allowing for towing and posting of signs. The Village's current ordinance that regulates the towing of vehicles is 15-10-2. It would have to be amended, so that the authority granted by it for "Towing Without Notice" would be applicable for a new section of the Code establishing a tow zone on the 1150 block of S. Cuyler Ave. Currently, the ordinance does not allow for towing without notice on residential block for violating parking restrictions.

The program would require a modified contract with the current towing company to facilitate the towing process and significant staffing resources for oversight and supervision. Onsite supervision would require police personnel to distinguish between parking violators and residential visitors and to confirm and authorize the towing operation. This would require additional officers (potentially multiple holdovers) to be assigned specifically to the area to monitor and provide any necessary information to execute the tow. In addition, personnel would be required to address the parking violators returning to the location after their vehicle has been towed. Lastly, implementation of a resident parking only tow-zone would likely have to be appropriately scaled to address similar conditions along Roosevelt Rd. and potentially other areas in the Village.

Village Current Response

Police Department: In an effort to ensure that the police department works proactively to address chronic complaints and curtail any further incidents, the following protocols have been put into place for the 1st Watch (overnight shift), effective December 7, 2022:

- Continued enforcement of the parking restrictions on the 1150 blocks of S. Cuyler Ave, Highland Ave. and Harvey Ave.
- The beat car and the field supervisor will monitor the business nightly for activity starting at 10 pm. Notification is to be made to the Watch Commander if a large crowd is observed or issues are anticipated. The Watch Commander will then determine if a holdover is required. If a holdover is necessary, this officer (or another officer, at the discretion of the Watch Commander) will then be assigned to the area until Mike's closes, to assist with any traffic/crowd control issues. The Watch Commander will provide the Chief of Police with an email notification of all enforcement activities.
- An overnight Sergeant will meet with Mike's Place management weekly to obtain a list of scheduled events, including private parties. This list will be forwarded to the Watch Commander by the start of each week for staffing considerations.
- Based on possible linkage to the aforementioned barber shop at 6301 W. Roosevelt rd., all CFS at this location will be documented in a written report as well and forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Field Services.
- The Community Policing Unit will continue with the on-going community engagement. The Resident Beat Officer will discuss enforcement actions and inform the residents of Mike's Place events during the monthly zone meetings and as the need arises.

Public Works Engineering: In addition to a cul-de-sac, the residents expressed a desire for general traffic calming and slowing of traffic. This block submitted a traffic calming petition in 2019 and were in the list of petitions to be ultimately reviewed by the Transportation Commission. In their letter of explanation, they expressed concerns regarding vehicle speeds and cut-through traffic during rush hours. The block requested a speed table as a potential solution at the time.

In September 2022, the Village Board approved a revised policy allowing staff to administratively authorize the installation of speed tables on the 1150 S. blocks if the residents of the block submit a petition with over 50% of the properties signing the petition. Staff have provided an updated petition form for a speed table to this block and should the residents still desire this improvement, they can submit an updated petition.

Should the Village receive a petition, a speed table can be installed in the second quarter of 2023 as part of the Village's annual street resurfacing project. A speed table would address any potential concerns relating to vehicles speeding and also help address concerns related to cut through traffic during rush hour.

Summary of Key Issues:

1. Geographic Location

- Mike's Place is located in another jurisdiction, which impacts the Village's ability hold the business accountable for their patrons' nuisance / criminal activities.
- Mike's Place does not have adequate parking for their patrons and the village of Berwyn does not have any overnight parking restriction. This allows their residents to park on the street, which impact the availability of street parking for Mike's patrons.
- Lack of coordination with Berwyn due to their fear of racial profiling accusations.

2. Cul-de-sac

- Board's action is required to facilitate the implementation.
- There are safety concerns for the area between Roosevelt Rd. and the alley. The daycare would no longer be able to proceed northbound on Cuyler Ave. Additionally, the potential accidents at the uncontrolled intersections in the alley and at the alley intersections at Ridgeland Ave. or Highland Ave.
- There would be no impact on parking violations and the other aforementioned concerns. Mike's patrons would continue to park and walk across the cul-de-sac to Mike's Place. There is a cul-de-sac installed on the 1150 block of S. Grove Ave. and it has not deterred patrons from the local bar on Berwyn's side from violating the 'Resident Only' parking restriction.

3. Tow Zone

- The Village would need to adopt an ordinance establishing a Code provision.
- Establish criteria for the appropriate tow zone locations in the Village.
- The staffing impact associated with potential overtime.
- The cost impact associated with modified or new towing contract.

Next Steps:

- Community Engagement_- Notifying the residents when special events may be occurring at Mike's Place, so they would be aware of any potential disruption to their evening.

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- **Enhanced Enforcement_** - Re-establish communication with Mike's Place to obtain advance notice of events and parties to strategically plan for enhanced enforcement.
- **Proactive Communication_** - Request Mike's Place warn their patrons of the parking restriction in the Village.
- **Speed Table_**The installation of the speed table on Cuyler Ave. is scheduled for April, 2023.
- **Evaluate and Modify** - Staff will continue to explore options for minimizing the impact of this business on our residents and look for more holistic resolution on these issues.

If you have any questions, please contact Shatonya Johnson, Chief of Police, at (708) 358-5503 or sjohnson@oak-park.us, regarding criminal activities and enforcement of parking restrictions; Rob Sproule, Public Works Director, at (708) 358-5704 or rsproule@oak-park.us, regarding traffic mitigations; and Tammie Grossman, Development Customer Services Director, at (708) 358-5427 or tgrossman@oak-park.us, regarding Village parking regulations and restrictions.

Attachment: Photograph of Cuyler Ave. and Highland Ave. at Roosevelt Rd. on Berwyn side

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
All Department Directors

Cuyler Ave. on Berwyn side, one-way northbound, attached townhouses



Highland Ave. on Berwyn side with a cul-de-sac and multi-unit residential buildings

