

**AUGUST 15, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SPEAKER SIGN-UP, POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

***SPEAKERS***

1. LaTunja Jackson (Naperville) (PATHS) – Ticketing of students
2. Robin Vannoy (Naperville) – Ticketing of students
3. Janice F Guider (Naperville) - Amara Harris... Where do we go from here?
4. Susan Greenwood (Naperville) NEST
5. Jeff Gross (Naperville) NEST - 3 minutes with NEST
6. Maryann Sprinkle-Walker (Naperville) - Police ticketing students
7. Glenn Sharkey (Naperville) - Enforcing parking regs. Issues with signage
8. Kijuana Boulrece (Aurora) DuPage NAACP education Advocate – Ticketing

***POSITION STATEMENT***

SUPPORT – school policing/in support of Amara

1. Zoey Bishop (Naperville)

***WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY***

1. Debra D Jordan (Naperville) - Comment for public record: Justice has been served in the Amara Harris case. As a citizen of Naperville, parent and grandparent, I hope that we will make changes at the Naperville School District Levels (D203 and D204) as well as at the local government/police level, to avoid unjust actions like this in the future. The mental and emotional state of our youth is at risk because of how we, as adults, are managing situations. The job of the police is to protect and serve: Who did you protect in this situation? No one!
2. Glenn Sharkey (Naperville) – Volunteering W/Naperville govt and community. – I would like to discuss City Signage, speed bumps and/or changing the speed limit from 25 to 15, cars left on the street over-night (we have called several times about this), being a disabled person people OFTEN part across the sidewalks, making it extremely difficult me and other disabled persons in my community to pass, Neighborhood watch program, and other resident safety issues. I would like to be on record and be directed to the appropriate people to discuss this with. I have met/spoke to many of the different departments and either do not get replies or state it cant be done, with no explanation. The above items are extremely important to me as I see way TOO MANY close calls with cars and children. There is 1 spot/curve on Stonewater Drive where drivers just cannot see around the corner and wind up slamming on their brakes due to their rate of speed. Full disclosure, I am a 21 year military retiree (1998) and rated @90% disabled. I am fully retired since 2017 since I retired (due to medical reasons) from my other civilian job. I have several health conditions, which the HINES VA has helped me with tremendously, to a point where I believe I can be able to join a council with all of the council and department meetings to volunteer for. Lastly, though I did spend 12 years with the Westmont Emergency Agency as a Captain, I had to stop due to my medical conditions. Please put me in touch with someone I can discuss options with. Thank you

and I will be there at tonight's meeting; Please do not cancel my request to speak, which I previously submitted.

3. Robin J Vannoy (Naperville) – Police ticketing of students – I would like to express my opposition to police ticketing students for infractions that can be handled through the school's disciplinary process. As a dean of students, I understand the complexity of keeping the school environment safe while protecting the rights of students. I also understand that the School to Prison pipeline is real and that there are inequities in disciplinary practices. The decision to issue a citation is a subjective one and can have serious implications for a young person. I question the outcome of issuing citations, other than a student entering the penile system too soon and undue financial hardships for families. Unless it is a serious crime that warrants an arrest, such as violence with a weapon, the school can handle disciplinary infractions.
4. Patrick Watson (Lisle) President of the DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Northern Cook, and Will NAACP - Further Investigation on Police in school tickets - The NAACP strongly condemns and calls for further investigation and action regarding the misuse of Police as revenue gathering agents, ensuring punishment and shame, in the Naperville Schools. The manner in which Amara Harris has been, seemingly still is being, treated is horrendous and not in keeping with a community positing that it is open, welcoming and affirming to all. The NAACP requests a community involved and informed effort to assist with more appropriated, not lending to prejudicial personal biases, creation of means to assist trained and licensed school professional in ensuring school community norming and discipline. Amara Harris fought the good and heroic fight to clear her name, yet a spokesperson, speaking on behalf of the City of Naperville, could not and would not in The Press extend an apology, but chose to utter words casting Amara Harris' character in further doubt.
5. Zoey Bishop (Naperville) – School Policing /Justice for Amara – Subject School policing /In support of Amara and asking for an investigation of this matter
6. Patricia Ann Watson (Barrington Hills) - Former Naperville Fair Housing Commission Member and Chair, soon to be returning to FT Naperville Residency – Police Ticketing in Schools - I am saddened to have followed the saga of Amara Harris and the accusation surrounding the of theft of missing iPods. I am further saddened that the City of Naperville made the choice to try and bend the resolve of a young woman who knew and stood by her own innocence with the allowance of the continuation of court proceeding. Naperville, I KNOW YOU to be better than this. The manner of the handling of this case, and with the Police being used in the schools, in the first place, to issue tickets to students, is nothing but trouble and sets into motion further mistrust between PROFESSIONAL law enforcement and communities of persons often treated as less than and suspect. Surely there is another means for a first-rate municipality with second to none schools to ensure discipline and standards. Police should be policing deviants in the streets, not misused to create deviants in the schools. Imagine how horrible this could have made the life of this young woman? What other numbers of students have had life altering interactions with police involvement in the schools?

**125. Pass the ordinance approving variances related to the proposed ground signs at 720-944 S Route 59 (Fox River Commons) - PZC 23-1-060**

**QUESTIONS ONLY**

1. Braeden Lord (Chicago) CR Fox River, LLC – Petitioner

2. Lisa Stefan (Carol Stream) Parvin-Clauss Sign Company – Petitioner
3. Brooke Spinell (Chicago) CR Fox River, LLC – Petitioner

**I28. Pass the ordinance approving the preliminary/final plat of resubdivision for 209 N. Brainard Street and 213 N. Brainard Street (Buhr Resubdivision) - PZC 23-1-050**

**QUESTIONS ONLY**

1. Brian Ledebuhr (Naperville) – Petitioner

**I31. Pass the ordinance approving a parking variance for the property located at 1504-1516 N. Naper Boulevard (Tower Crossing) – PZC 23-1-052**

**QUESTIONS ONLY**

1. Stefanie Day (Oakbrook Terrace) Napleton Investment Partnership, LP (Tower Crossing Shopping Center owner)

**I32 – I35. Iron Gate Motor Condos PZC 22-1-119**

**PRESENTING**

1. Tom Burgess (Naperville) – Petitioner

**SPEAKERS**

1. Bharat B Shah (Naperville)

**I32. Receive the staff report for Highpoint 2B located at 2304 Ferry Road - PZC 22-1-119 (Item 1 of 4)**

**POSITION STATEMENT**

OPPOSE

1. David Diersen (Wheaton)

**I33. Pass the ordinance revoking the Iron Gate Motor Condos Phase 2B PUD for the property located at 2304 Ferry Road (Highpoint 2B) - PZC 22-1-119 (Item 2 of 4)**

**POSITION STATEMENT**

OPPOSE

1. David Diersen (Wheaton)

**I34. Pass the ordinance approving a minor change to the Iron Gate Motor Condos Phase 2A approved by Ordinance 15-145 and a final PUD plat for Iron Gate Motor Condos Phase 2A for the property located at 2212 Ferry Road (Highpoint 2B) - PZC 22-1-119 (Item 3 of 4)**

**POSITION STATEMENT**

OPPOSE

1. Bharat Shah (Naperville)
2. David Diersen (Wheaton)

**I35 Pass the ordinance approving a preliminary/final plat of subdivision for Highpoint 2B - PZC 22-1-119 (Item 4 of 4)**

**POSITION STATEMENT**

OPPOSE

1. David Diersen (Wheaton)

**I36. Waive the first reading and pass the ordinance repealing and replacing Title 9 Chapter 3 of the Naperville Municipal Code regarding urban forest protection (requires six positive votes)**

**SPEAKERS**

1. Gail Giedricksen (Naperville)

**L1. Option 1 or Option 2: PZC 23-1-033 – chicken coop structures**

**PRESENTING**

1. Rick Montalbano (Naperville) Touch My Heart – Petitioner

**SPEAKERS**

1. Regina OConnor (Naperville) Touch My Heart
2. Brandon Quaintance (Oswego) Awesome Life Academy/ Touch My Heart
3. Kristin Krok (Waukegan) Aspire
4. Eric Rush (Naperville)
5. Stacy Rush (Naperville)

**WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY**

1. Kurt Luporini (Oswego) - Touch My Heart - Good morning Naperville Council, I am writing on behalf of Touch My Heart and the case number mentioned in the above subject line. Rick and Touch My Heart reached out as I heard The City of Naperville has a potential issue with the permitting for their Chicken Coops/Runs. For a brief history, I have been close friends with Rick and Wendy for the last 28 years and was actually the person that introduced them to each other while we were in high school together. I also lived in Naperville for the better part of 25 years and prior to moving to Oswego recently, held the positions of President of the Ashwood Creek Subdivision and Chair of the

Ashwood Club in south Naperville for many years. I also have an 8 yr old Son who is severely autistic who attends Little Friends in Naperville and one of my daughters is in her senior year of college completing her teaching degree concentrating on Special Needs and is a para at Little Friends as well. For additional context and clarity, I am also a founder and co-President of the Accessibility for All Employee Resource Group at my company, Jamf. I have been fortunate over the last few years to donate approx. \$7,000 to Touch My Heart through my company to help their wonderful efforts in supplying a safe and friendly environment to people with special needs with education and therapy. In short, I know a significant amount about the needs of neurodiverse people and how these types of therapies can make significant and lifelong positive effects on them to enrich their lives. I will be attending the hearing and hope that the board sees a way to continue to let this amazing organization thrive for the well-being of our community when many look the other way to neurodiverse individuals. Let's make sure the City Council is the former! In a world where so many things could be better, this is one of those that already is, and we should not look to take it away. I appreciate your sincere consideration in this most important matter.

2. Margaret Eismann (Naperville) - I live in the neighborhood where they are located and walk my dog past their house multiple times of day. I find their back yard charming and inviting. I wish I could say that about half the people that live in this neighborhood that don't take care of their yards houses as well Rick. I have never seen anything annoy or distracting. I believe they should be able to continue the great work for people with disabilities. Thank you
3. Amy Smith (Naperville) - We are located at Flambeau drive in Naperville, Illinois, neighbors of Rick and Wendy, who run the non for profit agency "touch my heart". We have seen the work they do to supply therapeutic resources to our community of not only adults with special needs, but scouts and school age children. They have provided a safe, engaging and therapeutic environment for our community to come and experience therapy chickens. Their passion and dedication to help people, specifically with special needs has been a unique addition to our communities outreach to that population as well as others. We support and agree with their mission to provide a family friendly farm experience. Their peaceful presence in the neighborhood has graced us with their coop and during holiday seasons with their holiday tree. They have continued to support the social health and well being of our community with the implementation of the touch my heart program and their good hearts. Please approve the request for variance as it is financially and therapeutically beneficial to grant the variance so that multiple entities may continue to utilize the resources that Touch My Heart offers. Please support their program as it serves and helps not only adults with special needs but the community as a whole.
4. Holly Ramsey (San Antonio, TX) – Dear Council members: I lived in Naperville for 14 years and am an active supporter of Touch My Heart. I am asking you to approve all the variances requested in order for the Montalbanos to continue to serve the community they love. Please approve a 24- month sunset and allow them to have the 16 therapy birds necessary for proper training and rotation. Additionally, please help them find affordable land for their amazing non-profit. The council may be concerned about a "slippery slope" and precedence that a variance can convey. Fortunately, that's not the case with this request. Rick and Wendy stand alone in providing the first chicken animal-assisted therapy venue in the United States. Wendy studied & received certifications in Backyard Poultry Education and Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities. This isn't "another backyard chicken case." This is the Montalbanos and Touch My Heart filling a need in the special needs community. Feel free to ask IPSD 204, who brought some individuals just a few weeks ago for a visit to the TMH chickens. This variance request is

utterly unique because what the Montalbanos are doing is utterly unique. What a privilege for Naperville to be leading the nation in this regard! There is no smell associated with their coop. The Montalbanos have a regular rotation of volunteers who assist them in maintaining the highest standard of cleanliness. Additionally, they employ an autistic young adult to assist with opening and closing, providing a needed job for an often overlooked segment of Naperville. There is no issue with crowds. TMH limits its offerings to only small groups of special needs adults and only during daytime hours. All parking is done in the Montalbanos U-shaped driveway. There is no impact on street parking. There is no issue with noise or crowing. Only softly clucking hens reside in the coop. There are no roosters. The placement of the coop was done deliberately to allow for 360-degree motorized wheelchair turns by guests. The six inches to a foot variance will make no difference to any isolated neighbor complaint. It makes a world of difference to the accessibility of the community Rick and Wendy serve. Disapproving the variances would cost a huge investment in time and money to move the coop, and could have a shuttering effect on this aspect of the Touch My Heart non-profit. I don't think dismantling significant and beloved community non-profits is probably why any of you serve in local government. The Montalbanos and Touch My Heart enjoy near unanimous support from their neighbors who have sent their own letters about how the chickens have brought the community together. Additionally, when public documents revealed a neighbor complaint, Rick and Wendy took immediate steps to address the concern. The Montalbanos' work with Touch My Heart chickens has resulted in them being recognized as Illinois' first 4-H Partner to serve those 18+. Naperville itself recognized Rick as a Citizen of the Year not too long ago. The Nature Rx Coalition, which includes many of the parks in the Naperville area, asked Rick and Wendy to be a part of their coalition. The Montalbanos have already bolstered a sense of community within that organization by inviting partners to their backyard to see chickens and the benefits of outdoor education. The variances allow Touch My Heart to continue to build community, serve marginalized groups, and establish Naperville as firmly at the forefront of innovative animal-assisted therapy. After the city council approves the variances, I might also suggest visiting the chickens yourself. You may find this makes you an enthusiastic supporter in aiding the Montalbanos in finding several affordable acres within Naperville for Touch My Heart Farm to find its permanent home. These variances are a stop-gap measure as the Montalbanos continue to search for permanent land for the chickens. I have to think that such win-win propositions like approving these variances and using your knowledge to find accessible permanent land for amazing groups like TMH are probably why each of you serve in local government. I look forward to seeing how your commission might help keep Touch My Heart firmly within Naperville! Sincerely, Holly Ramsey

**L2. Conduct the first reading on the ordinance amending Section 11-2B of the Naperville Municipal Code to eliminate commuter parking permits and expand daily fee parking**

**WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY**

1. Julie Winkler (Naperville) – Hello, Mayor and City Council Members, After being a resident of Naperville for over 30 years and a Metra commuter for 25 of those years, I am well informed on the current situation for parking and commuting in our area. The proposal to eliminate the permit parking program that has served as a dependable transportation component in our community is completely irresponsible and disruptive to

Naperville families. While the pandemic has changed commuting trends, there are still many of us who are regularly commuting to the city and we rely on the parking permit for greater convenience as we need to get our children to school. I can tell you that eliminating permits will dramatically disadvantage women with children as well as students who commute to school downtown. If anyone were to come to the train station in Naperville after 7:45 a.m., they would see that the ridership is working parents and college students who are taking the train downtown. I am entirely reliant on my parking permit to give me the flexibility to get my kids to school and still make a train to get to work. Going to daily parking is simply not an option. I completely appreciate that Naperville has expensive real estate near the train station that it is looking to monetize. With that being said, I am not even sure if consideration was given to increasing the cost of the parking permit as prices have not been adjusted in many, many years. It makes far more sense as an interim step in 2024 to increase the permit fees to \$\$250 or \$\$300 per quarter and see how many people no longer need their permits as they are not regularly commuting. For them, it will be a cost/benefit analysis to determine if they would rather pay the higher amount or go to daily parking to reflect their new schedule. Clearly the permit lots are not full and it is also entirely reasonable to convert more of these spots to daily parking if that is what is desired. Or if permit spots are not filled by 9 am in some lots then allow daily parking in them so the City would get twice the revenue for it. In reviewing the proposed changes to the ordinance, it also eliminates any ability for commuters to park overnight in any of the lots. This does not work for people who may need to spend the night in the city or take the train downtown then later travel to ORD for a work trip. I am fine if a parking lot further away is designated as the overnight lot, but this must be a consideration. Not all of us can be daily commuters as defined by this ordinance. The concept of reserved parking exists everywhere in our community - parking garages, stadiums, large events, and even water parks. People are willing to pay a premium to have the convenience and certainty of a parking spot and commuting is no different than these other circumstances. I do not understand why permits cannot continue to be offered in Naperville as a benefit to its long-standing commuters including working parents and students who need to ride the train at off peak hours. I am not aware of any other community that is considering such a drastic measure and believe we will be forcing Naperville residents to other train stations like Lisle and Wheaton, thereby reducing any financial benefit that was expected by implementing this plan. I urge the Council to vote down this proposed ordinance and ask the staff for a new plan which includes the continuation of permit parking in Naperville. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Julie

2. Julie Flores (Naperville) – Has the City Council considered leaving the current commuter parking structure at the downtown Metra station as is? In other words, keeping the Burlington lot as a permit parking lot and all remaining lots would flip to daily fee parking? It seems like a win-win for all in my opinion. I have held a permit at the downtown station for over 20 years. I commute to Chicago 5 days per week. The new daily fee proposal is not only inconvenient but cost prohibitive for me IF I choose to park in the Burlington Lot where I have parked for 20 years. I do not see how this new structure benefits the majority especially since the Parkview Lot and all remaining "daily fee" lots continue to have open spaces on a daily basis. I noticed that IF the city provides a Mobile Electronic Payment option that there will be a "service fee" associated with this process. What is the amount of the service fee and who benefits from the service fee? Is it legal to modify the service fee without advance notice to users? Are there any members of the City Council who commute to Chicago on a regular basis BUT actually drive to the train station?

3. Hello Naperville City Council, My apologies for not being able to locate the website note system so I ask that this email be entered and placed on the city website. In preparing this I would like to thank Ms Andrea Nair for clearing up some questions. I am both a healthcare provider downtown everyday, even during the pandemic, a senior, a 12-16 hr day happens with regularity. I previously was a math major, masters degree in Infinite Dimensional Dynamics which does modeling of current and future outlook platforms. I moved to Naperville in 1986, raised 3 kids, very active in the community.

#### The Survey

The survey was done by city staff and asked questions to gain more information about commuter patterns, and gather feedback on existing parking options but commuters were not asked specifically about how they feel or how they would be impacted. The surveys I have been involved in would be not done during religious holidays, more than one time, note mailed with the mid Sept sticker and rely on contacting beyond just the social media or internet to maximize. It is such a major change esp for those that travel everyday and waited for a decade to earn that pass. It is very important to ask and know the impact. A hard audit, no additional tags and grandfather those that waited would assure fairness and increase the availability greatly. They would die out. Seniors are the leaders and they do not have the prime health and the lesser walk during snow and ice would keep them safe and show respect. Fairness does not always mean first come first serve, one would have to do a daily lottery. Some in service, healthcare or first response have shifts that do not always start early, Some of us work double shifts and need safe parking close by. The study really assumes to a large degree a hybrid worker with an early start and under 60. This does not fit all of us. Why not allow a 3rd trimester pregnant woman to have a close pass as it keeps her staff. A temp pass can be issued with a letter from the MD. My estimates have an increase in the kiosks by up to 50%. The comments I hear are that they run out of receipts ( we know not required but it saved me a few times from a ticket), the LCD display in the winter does not always function and the buttons are a negative for health reasons. I noticed there are sanitizers in city hall but how come with the increased traffic this is not in the plan to keep us safer? I can work doubles or later to work on some of the charity programs if I knew I could reserve a monthly or weekly spot. Riverside does it. Why is this not proposed? Is the App reliable and has it ever gone down or hacked? It is owned by VW Financial which has had some problems. What does the study say? In closing a couple thoughts. I think this is so impactful that a deep study and discussion that meets study/discussion standards be and not just a cursory approach. Also I do wish to thank Jennifer Bruzan-Taylor who did return one of my emails but she was the only one. I may be naive but I am a serious voter, the train is safe, reliable, good for our carbon footprint reduction, When those that visited the train station around election, I was told there would be transparency and responsive approach. Only one answered me. No one wants to think they got the slip of the hand. Please table this, dig deeper as it is a Major change. Thank you for your time.

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