

Tabled Information
reference 306/12P(a)

Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington

Joanne Black and Grant Johnston
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Thorndon
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17 October 2012

Dear Councillors

This is a submission asking the Council to make the occupants of 17 Turnbull Street, Thorndon, eligible for residents' parking permits for as long as it remains a private residence.

Our family lives at 17 Turnbull Street, which is a small street just off Murphy Street. Our house dates from the 1870s, and has always been a private residence. Over the 17 years we have owned the property, we have put considerable effort into maintaining it as an old Thorndon cottage, in keeping with the houses in surrounding streets.

Turnbull Street has ample residents parking, and we are the only house in the street. Yet we are not eligible for a residents' parking permit.

We only found out about this recently, when our son bought a car and was refused a permit. This came as a surprise to us. We have a permit for our own car, but it transpires that this is only a grand-parented permit from before the rules changed a couple of years ago.

The issue is that our house is actually zoned commercial, as it used to be owned many years ago by our neighbours, the Royal Society of New Zealand, although even then it was rented out as a home. Because of that zoning, our house is no longer eligible for residents' parking.

We submit that homes like ours are a special case which the current rules do not take account of. Despite its zoning, 17 Turnbull Street is not a commercial business. It is a family home, and has been for well over a century. We pay residential rates, not commercial rates.

There is no adequate off-street parking at 17 Turnbull Street. That is not surprising given the age of the house. Neither our car nor our son's car, both of which are small vehicles, can be parked off the street without protruding over the footpath. It seems to us unfair that our son should have to pay coupon parking charges to park in a street where he is a genuine resident and where there are plenty of available residents' parks.

And it seems to us that we are precisely the kind of residents for whom "residents' parking" was intended.

This is an issue which any future residents of 17 Turnbull Street would also feel aggrieved about, so we would like to get a permanent solution to it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Black".A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Johnston".

Joanne Black and Grant Johnston