



**CITY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**
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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
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KATHY SHEEHAN
MAYOR

March 19, 2020

City of Albany Common Council
City Hall
24 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207

Dear City of Albany Common Council Members,

This letter is in response to several requests my office has received from members of the Common Council to suspend alternate-side parking.

Alternate-side parking serves two critical functions. First, it facilitates the City's street cleaning operations throughout the city. In dense neighborhoods like Pine Hills, street cleaning serves a critical public health role. The build-up of leaves, debris and litter on our streets attracts rodents, and increases the risk that pedestrians, cyclists, and pets are exposed to elements that will adversely impact their health, including microorganisms and viruses. This debris also clogs storm drains, which can result in localized flooding during weather events. Second, in many neighborhoods, alternate-side parking is also directly related to trash and recycling removal.

It is important to note that on many streets, alternate-side parking is necessary to provide room for emergency vehicles to respond to calls for service. On those streets, suspension is simply not possible and now is not the time to create confusion and uncertainty by changing rules on an ad hoc basis.

In the midst of a public health crisis, we will not take any action that could further hinder our ability to respond to the crisis. If you have a specific concern about access to parking in your ward, please let us know and we will determine whether additional lots can be made available for residential parking. Please encourage your constituents to comply with alternate-side parking rules so we can keep our streets clean and ensure access for emergency responders.

I will continue to consult with our Fire and Police Chiefs, as well as the Albany County Health Commissioner, on the most appropriate ways to protect the health and safety of our residents as we respond to COVID-19.

I appreciate your partnership and cooperation during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy M. Sheehan".

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany

Cc. Danielle Gillespie, City of Albany City Clerk
Matthew Peter, Executive Director, Albany Parking Authority