

Chesley Homeowners Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 16941
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-6941

June 18, 2007

Mayor and Town Council
Town of Chapel Hill
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Re: Request for Parking Restrictions on Streets in the Chesley Subdivision

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Town Council:

In order to prevent students from East Chapel Hill High School from parking on the streets in the Chesley Subdivision, we are asking that parking be limited to **3 hours from 8 AM – 4 PM on Monday - Friday** on both sides of the following streets or sections of streets: (See map attached.)

Muir Lane from Weaver–Dairy Road Entrance to Tamalpais Point,
Tamalpais Point,
All of Sierra Drive,
Chesley Lane from Weaver-Dairy Road Entrance to Chesley Court.

In May 2007, we became aware that several ECHHS students were regularly parking within the Chesley neighborhood. Once a student car was parked behind a resident's driveway, and the resident struck the car. On two occasions, a large SUV was parked on Sierra Drive in locations that created a traffic hazard. As we discussed these cases, we became aware of other previous instances of student parking that raised concerns.

Since East Chapel Hill High School was built in 1996, the school administration has discouraged students from parking in the surrounding neighborhoods and parks, and in the past has been helpful when we reported problems. After reporting these most recent incidents, however, we were informed by Officer Rex Gibson that the police could not actually ticket a student car unless the street had Town Council-approved parking restrictions in place. He suggested we petition for such restrictions.

In the past, the Chesley residents have preferred not to have any parking restrictions in order that residents, their guests, and tradespeople not be unduly inconvenienced. However, we think this decision must be reviewed. We have learned that both Chandlers Green and Silver Creek II subdivisions have parking restrictions that prevent student parking. Cedar Falls Park has a 3-hour parking limit on school days to prevent student parking. Chesley is thus the only subdivision adjacent to the High School with no parking restrictions on its streets. This fact, plus our ease of access for students, makes our streets very tempting targets for students who do not wish to buy a

student-parking permit. If it becomes widely known that students can park in Chesley without sanctions, the incidents will likely increase.

Our concerns about student parking are nearly all related to issues of safety for Chesley residents and their children. Chesley has no sidewalks, so that at the times of day that students might enter and leave our neighborhood, Chesley residents and their children are apt to be walking in *the street*. Chesley traffic is at a maximum as residents are leaving for work. Three school buses enter Chesley each morning and again in the afternoon, entering at Muir, driving down Sierra, and exiting at Chesley Lane. Increased traffic from student cars would be especially hazardous at this time, especially if students are in a hurry. If students leave for lunch, this would generate additional traffic. Students parking in Chesley will have to cross Weaver-Dairy Road at a busy time, and some may be inclined to dart across the road rather than walk to the tr&c light at the high school driveway.

The streets of Chesley are winding and steep in many places. Sightlines are often poor with regard to oncoming traffic and blind driveways. Cars parked haphazardly along the roads create hazards as other drivers swing into the oncoming traffic lane to pass them. Chesley streets were not designed to support on-street parking plus two lanes of traffic. Nonetheless, residents, their guests, and service people, especially lawn services, must and do park on the streets for periods up to a couple of hours but not on a regular (daily) basis. These people have no simple parking alternatives, but students do.

As we became aware of the potential problems connected to student parking, many residents agreed that parking restrictions would be solution. We have taken a survey of the homeowners. 35/53 residents replied to a questionnaire and 30 (86%) indicated they would support the restrictions outlined in this petition or even more inclusive ones.

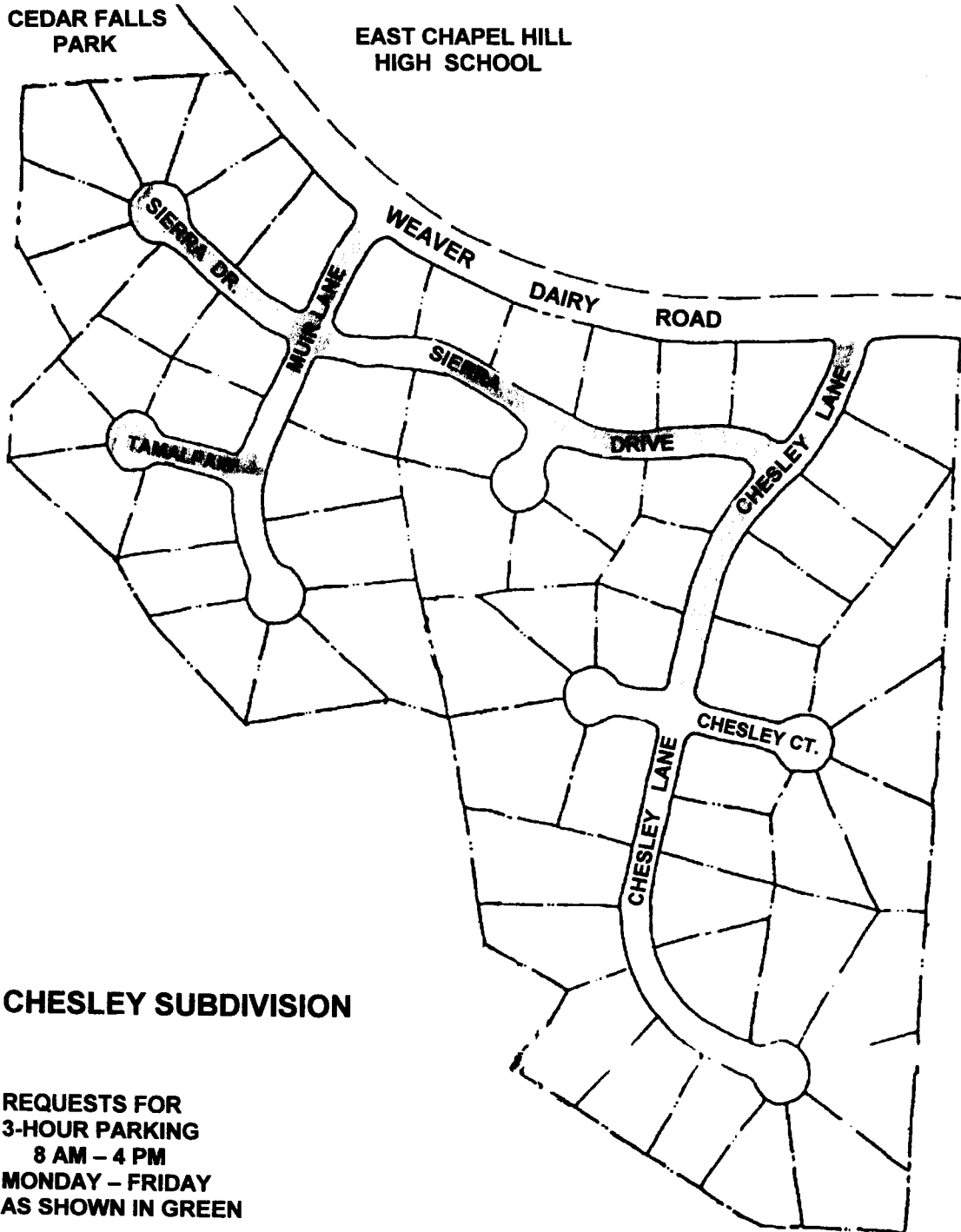
We know that past Town Councils have chosen to discourage students from parking in the surrounding neighborhoods and have passed ordinances to restrict parking for just this purpose. We hope that the current Town Council will see the merit of our request. We are ready to work with the Town's staff to evaluate this petition.

For more information or liaison with the Homeowners Association, the staff can contact me.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Sampsell, President.
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**CEDAR FALLS
PARK**

**EAST CHAPEL HILL
HIGH SCHOOL**

SIERRA DR.

**WEAVER
DAIRY ROAD**

MULL LANE

DAIRY ROAD

**TAMALPAIS
DRIVE**

**SIERRA
DRIVE**

CHESLEY LANE

CHESLEY LANE

CHESLEY CT.

CHESLEY SUBDIVISION

**REQUESTS FOR
3-HOUR PARKING
8 AM - 4 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY
AS SHOWN IN GREEN**