September 26, 2011

Dear Property Managers and Home Owner Associations (HOAs),

The Cedar Park Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in our city.

Recently, we have responded to several citizen complaints of illegal parking in neighborhoods. The most common issues are concerning automobiles blocking sidewalk access or being parked in the opposite direction of traffic.

Following the issuance of parking warnings or citations from police, some residents have indicated either they were not aware that the state parking laws and city ordinances apply to the neighborhood setting or do not understand why these laws are enforced at all hours.

While we understand their concerns, we must keep safety top-of-mind. When a vehicle blocks a sidewalk, it forces a pedestrian or bicyclist—in many cases a child—to venture into the roadway to get around the automobile. When a driver parks in the opposite direction of traffic, the vehicle must cross over into oncoming traffic to arrive at and depart from that spot. Regardless of the level of traffic, this still presents a risk to the violator and to unsuspecting drivers and pedestrians.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind our citizens of the state parking laws and city ordinances by asking you to please share this information with your homeowners and residents. Together, we can maintain safe streets and pedestrian walkways in our community.

For your convenience, I have highlighted sections which address the most common neighborhood parking issues. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at mike.harmon@cedarparktx.us or call me at 512-260-4738.

In public service,

Capt. Mike Harmon
Cedar Park Police Department

Sec. 17.04.011 Prohibited parking areas where no signs are required

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic in compliance with the law, or to obey the directions of a police officer or traffic control device, or if the vehicle is located in a designated parking space, in any of the following locations:

(1) On a sidewalk or obstructing any portion of such sidewalk;

(2) Within street right-of-way in front of or within five (5) feet of a public or private driveway serving single-family or duplex uses except in cul-de-sacs, or in front of or within twenty (20) feet of a driveway serving a use other than single-family or duplex (for purposes of this section, the driveway does not include the rounded or clipped corner at the intersection of the driveway and the public street);

(3) Within an intersection of two public roadways or within the rounded corner (curb return) at the intersection;

(4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant;

(5) On a marked crosswalk;

(6) Within twenty (20) feet of a marked crosswalk at an intersection of two public streets;

(7) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;

(8) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;

(9) Adjacent to the curb of any public street unless parking is parallel and immediately adjacent to the curb of the street, the vehicle is oriented in the correct direction of travel and parking is not otherwise prohibited on the street;

(10) Within the roadway or right-of-way of any state maintained highways or arterial roadway so designated by the city within the corporate limits of the city;

(11) On a bridge or other elevated structure; or

(12) On a railroad track or within railroad right-of-way.