

East Norwalk Neighborhood Association



March 8, 2022

Connecticut General Assembly
Transportation Committee – via email

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB-5254 An Act Concerning Public Access to Beaches and Parks

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee:

The East Norwalk Neighborhood Association writes today in opposition to HB-5254.

Our Association represents the over 3800 residential households in the 06855 Zip Code area. Our neighborhood includes (2) public beaches and (8) public parks, all of which abut densely populated residential and commercial streets.

Access to all our parks and beaches is already completely open to residents and non-residents alike. Those facilities that require restricted parking and/or require paid parking are due to the limited amount of parking spaces.

Some streets closest to the beach had been designated as No Beach Parking, and more recently “Resident Parking Only”. Obviously these measures were taken to ensure parking availability for homeowners on busy summer weekends, but also for the safety of the community in regards to emergency vehicle access.

Norwalk is among the half dozen or so municipalities whose proximity to NYC and Westchester County make them an easy weekend commute to beaches and parks. And while we appreciate tourism and encourage visits to enjoy our beautiful city, a “free for all” on parking would cripple our community nearly 6 months out of the year. If individual municipalities are denied the right to determine local parking needs and restrictions, a beachside community such as ours would unfairly suffer from excessive traffic & congestion. and our roads become unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists.

Sincerely,
Diane Cece
Board - President