

# Aldermen to vote on Middle Street parking, landlord fines

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The full Board of Mayor and Aldermen is expected to officially revoke all the parking permits in the Middle Street Parking lot during a meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The move is recommended by city parking manager Brandy Stanley, who feels that there are not enough temporary parking space in the lot, which is located next to city hall.

The lot holds 66 spaces, 39 of which are permit spaces controlled by 11 area businesses.

Local Developer Ben Gamache currently controls 18 of the permit spaces for tenants he has

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at 20 Market St. Last Thursday, he said that losing the spaces is going to make it difficult for him to hold onto tenants.

“It’s definitely a big inconvenience for my tenants, and it makes it a lot harder to do business around that area,” Gamache said.

If the board votes in favor of canceling the permits, as expected, the local businesses will have until April 1 to find alternative

parking. Stanley said that she would help the businesses locate parking in the Victory or Canal Street parking garages.

Once the permits are gone, Pay & Display meters will be installed in the parking lot.

## Another look at landlord penalties

Aldermen will also take one final vote on doubling the fines for neglectful landlords during Tuesday’s meeting.

Under the proposal, the citation for a first-offense housing code violation will rise from \$100 to \$200.

Raising the fines was originally recommended

by a community service committee within NeighborWorks Greater Manchester, a non-profit housing organization.

Over the past six months, cracking down on landlords has been a top priority for city officials, who feel that neglected properties lead to increased crime and lower the city’s quality of life.

The full board has already approved the increased penalties, but city rules require a second vote.

Tuesday’s meeting of the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers. It is open to the public.

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