

MAYOR'S CORNER

“Keep on Truckin’”

By Upton Mayor Nick Trandahl

Hello, Uptonites!
This “Mayor’s Corner” will be two-fold, firstly addressing issues and compromises associated with the increased truck traffic in and around Upton, and secondly I apparently need to put on my “dad” hat and have a little chat about decency and respect.



It’s no secret to those of us here in Upton that truck traffic has increased exponentially along Highways 116 and 16 through Upton, and also on Upton’s city streets. Like you, I see and hear it myself (especially those screaming engine compression brakes that rattle the windows downtown), but we in the Upton Town government also have been increasingly barraged with emails, texts, calls, photos, and face-to-face visits with Upton residents concerned with trucks violating local ordinances as they pertain to using city streets and also the use of engine compression brakes in city limits.

Upton’s city streets have a tensile strength of 10 tons, and the current ordinance (dating back 40 years to 1983) prohibits weight over eight tons. Over the decades, this ordinance has rarely been enforced, but it declares the use of streets a privilege, with their use serving as drivers’ consent to the conditions imposed by the ordinance. It also allows any Upton police officer to demand that any driver go to the nearest available scales to weigh their truck to ensure it’s beneath the required weight limit. This old ordinance, however, isn’t specific with exceptions that need to be detailed, including examples such as trucks making deliveries or providing a service, doing work in town, or buses transporting children.

Recently, as we’ve been barraged by more and more citizen complaints, I directed the Upton Police Chief to begin enforcing

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