



## **TOWN OF PLAINFIELD**

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### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Plan Commission**  
**CC:**  
**FROM: Eric Berg, AICP, Planner**  
**DATE: February 28, 2018**  
**RE: Electric Vehicle Charging—informational draft**

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During the fueling station ordinance discussion at the February Plan Commission meeting, the idea of charging stations was raised by several members of the Commission. The final direction was that charging stations should be added to the fueling station ordinance, and staff followed that direction.

Staff distributed the changes based upon that direction soon after the Plan Commission meeting. However, after both internal discussion and guidance from Commission members, it seemed clear that the changes might create additional loopholes and potentially stifle the potential growth of the electric vehicle industry.

Fueling stations with gasoline or diesel are commonplace not only in this area, but across the nation. In contrast, the electric vehicle industry, along with other “alternative fuels”, faces a difficult “chicken-or-egg” situation:

People are reluctant to purchase electric vehicles because of the concern that a charging station may not be available when they need it. Developers are reluctant to construct charging station infrastructure because the number of people purchasing electric vehicles is still relatively small.

Another problem is that many communities do not have a process or method for review and approval of these facilities. This procedural uncertainty could lead to a reluctance in pursuing electric vehicle charging facilities.

With this draft ordinance, Staff has attempted to create regulations that will guide, but not hinder, the development of facilities for electric vehicle charging and battery exchange. The proposed regulations are similar to those enacted in multiple communities nationwide.

This has not been advertised for public hearing. Staff is looking for the Commission to informally review this draft and provide comment. Should the Commission determine that it would like this draft to move forward, Staff will revise based upon Commission comment and will have the draft reviewed by the Town’s Legal Counsel.