



# Agenda Report

June 1, 2020

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Department of Transportation  
**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO RESUMING PARKING ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to resume regular parking enforcement efforts.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On March 17, 2020 and in response to the developing COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council approved a staff recommendation to modify various parking policies which included:

- Suspension of enforcement of the overnight parking ordinance.
- Suspension of enforcement of time limits in residential neighborhoods.
- Suspension of daytime street sweeping restrictions.
- Suspension of payment at all curbside parking spaces.
- All metered parking spaces will be temporarily converted to 20 minute parking to facilitate delivery and pick-up of food from restaurants. The 20 minute limit on these spaces will be enforced.
  - Individuals looking to park long-term should park in parking garages and walk to their destination.
- Temporary suspension of non-critical vehicle impounds.
- Temporary suspension of booting and impounds for five or more past-due parking citations and for vehicles with expired registrations.

Recent changes in policy at the State, County and Local levels have allowed for retail stores and office spaces to reopen with some restrictions. With the expectation that restaurants will be allowed to reopen for sit-down dining in short order, the Department of Transportation has determined a return to pre-COVID-19 efforts is warranted. Staff is proposing the following:

- Meter payments and enforcement to resume June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Warnings to be issued for one week, with citations to resume June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Meters are the most effective means of guaranteeing turnover in a high demand parking area. Requiring meter payments and enforcing generates turnover and therefore availability of parking for customers. Staff recommends starting enforcement efforts to coincide with retail and restaurant reopenings to the extent possible. Starting enforcement in metered areas on June 2<sup>nd</sup> allows us to modify our staffing schedules, modify enforcement routes, and to bring in contracted enforcement to assist with enforcement efforts where necessary.

Additionally, staff recommends maintaining select 20 minute parking areas in metered areas to continue to facilitate short term parking for restaurant pick-up and delivery services to access the curb. Meter payment would be required by individuals parking in these spaces to facilitate turnover in these spaces as well.

- Enforcement of time limits in residential neighborhoods to resume June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Warnings to be issued for one week, with citations to resume June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - As parking demand increases in commercial areas that border residential neighborhoods, residents of those neighborhoods will see an increase in the amount of vehicles parked in their respective neighborhoods. Enforcement efforts in these areas should coincide with meter enforcement efforts to limit the impact on these residents.
- Overnight enforcement to resume June 15<sup>th</sup>. Warnings to be issued for two weeks, with citations to resume July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - This allows parking office staff to ensure that all pending overnight permit requests have been fulfilled prior to enforcement efforts taking place. It additionally allows us to reconfigure enforcement schedules and patrol beats, and it gives our contracted enforcement company time to bring in staffing. It also allows time for the City to inform the public that overnight enforcement will resume. Enforcement of the overnight ordinance will also allow for street sweeping activities to return to maximum efficiency.
- Enforcement of daytime street sweeping restrictions to resume June 15<sup>th</sup>. Warnings to be issued for two weeks, with citations to resume July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - This allows us to reconfigure enforcement schedules and patrol beats, and it gives our contracted enforcement company time to bring in staffing. It also allows time for the City to inform the public that street sweeping enforcement will resume. This will allow street sweeping activities to

return to maximum efficiency. These efforts should coincide with overnight enforcement efforts for the purposes of street sweeping efforts.

- Vehicle booting and impounds for non-critical purposes to resume August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Parking Office needs to reopen to allow for individuals to come to pay fees and have their vehicles released to them. While the Department of Transportation is preparing to staff up the office and open the front counter in June, there is a pending project to make improvements in the Parking Office lobby that will require the removal of the glass partition there. The project is scheduled to take place in early July. Instead of starting booting and impounding efforts only to have to suspend them, staff recommends that we wait until this project is completed before restarting these enforcement efforts. Additionally, this will allow enforcement staff to focus on efforts related to the items listed above.

Staff is aware that some have requested to extend free parking periods in City-owned garages and for on street metered parking. Staff strongly advises against doing so. While free parking may seem appealing on the surface, it inevitably leads to both customers and employees of the area taking parking spaces on a long-term basis which reduces turnover and the overall number of guests that are able to conveniently park and patronize local businesses.

#### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's strategic plan goal to support quality of life and the local economy.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Returning to our parking enforcement practices will have a direct net positive fiscal impact on the City's revenues. Staff estimates that during the suspension of parking enforcement, revenues for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be down approximately \$6,000,000 between the parking garages fund, parking meter funds and parking citations (General Fund).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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