

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** APRIL 6, 1998  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Review of Pasadena Municipal Code Section 10.44  
(Overnight Parking Ordinance)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that City Council maintain Section 10.44 of the Pasadena Municipal Code which does not allow parking on City Streets between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. without displaying a permit authorizing such vehicle to park on designated streets.

**BACKGROUND:**

Overnight parking on City streets has been prohibited since 1921. The first prohibition did not allow vehicles to park on-street from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.. The reason for establishment of the first ordinance is unclear. However, reasons for supporting the ordinance over the years have included street sweeping, clearing streets of abandoned vehicles, crime detection, to encourage off-street parking and to prevent long-term on-street parking. In 1948, the ordinance was amended to change the hours of prohibition to include the hours from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m..

In 1971, the Board of Directors considered but rejected a request to allow the issuance of overnight parking permits for on-street parking between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.. (See Attachment A.) However, in 1974, the Board reconsidered this decision and amended the code to allow the issuance of on-street permits to residents who could prove that there was insufficient parking to accommodate all vehicles registered to the applicant's address. (See Attachment B.)

In 1991, City Council reviewed the overnight parking ordinance. (See Attachment C.) At that time, the Communications Department had conducted a survey of residents to determine the community's attitude towards overnight parking. In addition to over 1,300 completed surveys, the City received numerous letters and petitions from residents which unanimously supported retention of the City's overnight parking ordinance.

Also as part of the study, the Police Department conducted a survey of 20 cities throughout California and found that most cities restricted parking in commercial districts primarily for street sweeping purposes and relied on an “odd/even” method of street sweeping during the day in residential districts. However, in a recent survey of 15 cities in this area, staff found that 12 of the cities surveyed have an overnight parking ordinance in place. These cities are within a 20-mile radius of the City of Pasadena. Many stated that the reason for establishing the overnight parking ordinance is to sweep streets and reduce crime.

In order to use the “odd/even” system, it is necessary to post each street with signs stating the days and time of sweeping. The cost to install signs throughout the City of Pasadena to prohibit parking during a certain period of the day is estimated to be \$1,000,000 and the cost to maintain the signs will be approximately \$100,000 annually. The aesthetics of placing signs in front of resident’s homes is another consideration in determining whether to change the City’s street sweeping scheduling. The time required or equipment necessary to sweep streets during daytime hours may increase due to the fact that the operator will be required to maneuver the equipment while negotiating with other daytime drivers.

The 1991 report included an evaluation of four options concerning overnight parking:

- 1) maintaining the ordinance with modification to accommodate guests and unusual circumstances;
- 2) amending the ordinance to apply to certain streets or sections of the City (i.e. commercial areas);
- 3) amending the ordinance to prohibit parking on certain days at certain times for street sweeping; and
- 4) repealing the ordinance (although the survey results concluded that the overwhelming response was to keep the ordinance as it existed).

Based on the cost of alternatives and support from residents, City Council decided not to change the overnight parking ordinance at that time.

On February 2, 1998, City Council took action to request the City Attorney to amend the ordinance to allow for the issuance of guest parking permits and asked staff to provide information on the pros and cons of maintaining the overnight parking ordinance.

#### Street Sweeping Program Efficiency and Effectiveness Concerns

A majority of residential street sweeping is accomplished at night with 80 percent of streets being swept once every two weeks and the remaining 20 percent of the streets being swept once every three weeks. Additionally, street sweeping efforts have been

enhanced in Old Pasadena, South Lake and other numerous areas as requested by staff, City Council and Neighborhood Associations.

The current overnight parking restrictions have been an invaluable asset to the street sweeping program. With the restriction and adequate enforcement of the ordinance, few vehicles are parked on-street providing an efficient and effective means of sweeping streets. Streets cannot be effectively swept if parking exists. Additionally, pedestrian and vehicular traffic interference is considerably less between 2 and 6 a.m. than during other times of the day.

#### Clearing Streets of Abandoned Vehicles

The overnight parking ordinance allows enforcement staff to patrol the City and request individuals to leave the area if they do not display a permit during these hours. It should also be noted that without an overnight parking ordinance, fewer enforcement personnel will patrol City streets as Public Works and Transportation will no longer be needed to provide parking enforcement services between the hours of 2 and 6 a.m..

Recently, staff received a request from a majority of residents living in the 600 and 700 blocks of South Magnolia Avenue to remove the exemption status of their street. The residents indicated that because these blocks were exempt from the overnight parking ordinance, traffic flow was constrained, numerous auto break-ins occurred and the overall image of the street was compromised because vehicles which did not belong to the residents or their visitors were parked solid along the street nightly. These residents wanted the benefit of parking enforcement patrol of residential streets which allows staff to easily identify vehicles belonging to residents and their guests and reduces the number of abandoned autos on their street.

Over the years, the process to purchase an overnight parking permit has been refined so that residents who do not have sufficient off-street available for their vehicles can obtain a permit more easily. During the approval stages, a free permit is provided so that residents will have immediate access to on-street parking. Once approved, the residents pays a low fee for an annual permit. (The current cost of the permit is \$43 annually.) Also, because some residents have guests and there is insufficient parking to accommodate them, residents are granted exemptions for their guest's vehicles. Residents may request five exemptions per vehicle in a 6-month period by calling parking enforcement and providing the location and description of the their guest's vehicle. On February 2, 1998, staff proposed and City Council approved a request of the City Attorney to modify the ordinance to allow for the issuance of guest permits to residents so that if needed, their guests may park on-street more frequently.

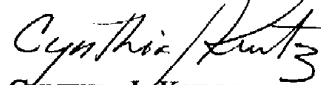
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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Eliminating the overnight parking ordinance will require that street sweeping occur during selected hours of the day (or night). In order to accomplish this, signs indicating the scheduled time of sweeping would need to be posted on every block to ensure that vehicles are not parked. Because the times would vary, signs would need to be posted on every block of all City streets. The estimated cost for installation of the signs exceeds \$1,000,000 and annual maintenance of the signs is anticipated to be over \$100,000. Additionally, additional staff may be required to maintain the current levels of service since daytime vehicular and pedestrian traffic will become a factor in time required to sweep.

Respectfully Submitted,



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