

Residential Parking Permit

Description:

Residents of Monroe County are eligible for a permit to park at any parking space marked for resident parking.

Background:

This permit program was developed in the 90's to provide relief to residents of the historic district impacted by close proximity to commercial development. It was modified during development to expand eligibility to all residents of Monroe County. In every block that participates in this program there is a mix of "residential" marked spaces and unmarked spaces. Residents of Monroe County only can park in the "residential" spaces, but anyone is welcome to park in the unmarked spaces. The ratio mix of these types varies but most blocks have about 50/50.

Application:

Residents with a license plate that says "Monroe" can park in these spaces without application. Any resident with a license plate other than "Monroe" must complete an application and provide proof of residency, driver's license and registration. There is a one-time fee of \$6.25. The Applicant is given a decal to stick on their window. The decal never expires. The City has issued thousands of these permits.

Opinion:

This program needs to be updated to reflect it's original intent.

-This permit program was originally modeled on other City's best practices for prioritizing residential parking in residential areas. Typically residential parking areas are created around business districts, tourist destinations, arenas, universities, etc... where residential parking in the area is overwhelmed by the close proximity to commercial development. Eligibility is restricted to residents who reside in the Area. Additionally, some further restrict eligibility to residents in the neighborhoods where they reside.

-Our program should be restricted to residents of the Historic District at a minimum. Creation of zones should be investigated to possibly restrict residential parking to residents of the zone (neighborhood).

- The current program as implemented does not work well. While tourists and short term residents are limited to the unmarked spaces, service workers and employees of other businesses in the area park in many of the residential spaces. The net effect in providing relief to residents of the neighborhood is poor.

- The existing street markings are faded and many are not legible. The City needs to commit the resources to remarking these spaces with a more permanent material. The experiment along Eaton Street has not been a success. Additionally the second design along 300 Margaret has proven to be too time consuming to mark. We need to explore options that are long lasting and easily installed. Hiring outside contractors to complete the work rapidly should be investigated.

Proposal:

Modify existing permit program to restrict eligibility to residents of the Historic District. Vehicles will need an annual permit decal for a suggested fee of \$50.00

and

Investigate the cost of contracting out the purchase and installation of thermoplastic street markings that are 24 inches high by 60 inches long that state "residential permit parking"