

Employee Assistance Parking Permit

Description:

Employees who work in the business district are eligible for a 4 month permit to park at any meter in the City.

Background:

This permit program began in the late 80's for Employers to assist employees who work in the business district with the cost of parking. While some large employers still purchase them for employees, the restrictions were relaxed in the mid 90's to allow employees to purchase them directly. Recently, the eligibility has been broadened again to employees who can show proof they work primarily in the business district but do not have a physical address they report to daily such as mobile vendors, sales representatives, Health inspectors, some smaller delivery drivers who also conduct business when delivering, etc...

Application:

Residents must complete an application and provide proof of employment with a notarized letter from their employer, driver's license and pay a fee of \$400.00 for 4 months. Photographs are taken of the vehicle. The Applicant is given a decal to stick on their window to park at any metered spot in the City. Currently there are 163 active permits.

Opinion:

This program needs to be updated to reflect current conditions.

- This permit program competes with local businesses that offer monthly parking services. Most charge an average \$100.00 per month and the City offers more desirable parking for the same rate.

- One of the goals of metered parking is quick turnover of parking spaces to provide more customers to the business district. Most parking spaces have a turnover every 2 hours on average. However vehicles with these permits park an average 8 hours per day.

- There have been some issues with this permit program. Some business owners have parked vehicles for hire (electric cars) in locations for advertising purposes. There is a clause in this permit ordinance that allows business owners to have 1 permit decal for themselves and makes an exception for the business owner to have advertising on their vehicle.

- The City has a loss of revenue by providing parking at .57 cents per hour vs. \$2.00 per hour. It is difficult to calculate an actual cost to the City; a rough estimate is \$475,000.00 per year. Approximately 13 % of the City's on-street metered parking is dedicated to this program.

- There is no restriction on time of use so the employee can use it while not working.

Proposal:

Modify existing Employee Assistance Parking program; offering a greater discount - suggested \$25.00 per month - but limit the location to areas such as the Park n Ride and former City Hall lot at 525 Angela. This could be combined with more comprehensive changes such as reviving the Park N Ride Shuttle and increase free bike and scooter parking.