

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 24, 2010**

DOCKET ITEM: 4

ISSUE: Consideration of a request to:

1. Post NO PARKING restrictions in front of 1314 and 1320 Michigan Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mondays for refuse collection.
2. Post NO PARKING restrictions on both sides of the alley on the east side of the 1400 block of Michigan Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mondays for refuse collection.
3. Change the existing NO PARKING 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mondays restrictions for trash pickup to NO PARKING 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 Mondays for trash pick up on both sides of the alley on the west side of the 1400 block of Michigan Avenue.

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

LOCATION: 1300 and 1400 block Michigan Avenue

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of this request.

DISCUSSION: This request was submitted by the City of Alexandria Solid Waste Division. The alley is very narrow making it difficult for the refuse trucks to access the alley when vehicles are parked on either side of the alley. On several occasions the trucks were not able to maneuver down the alley so the drivers had to walk down the alley and bring each trash can out to the street to empty it and then return the can back to the alley. When this happens the daily collection schedule is delayed. The proposed parking restrictions will create enough space and distance for the collection vehicles to successfully negotiate the turns in the alley. The civic association and impacted residents were contacted over a month ago and have not expressed concerns over this proposal.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 24, 2010**

DOCKET ITEM: 5

ISSUE: Consideration of installation of 2 hour metered parking in the 100 and 200 blocks of King Street.

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

LOCATION: 100 and 200 block King Street

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Traffic and Parking Board support the proposal for installation of metered parking in the 100 and 200 blocks of King Street.

DISCUSSION: The 100 and 200 blocks of King Street currently operate under two hour parking restrictions and are not metered, although City Code § 5-8-92 currently authorizes parking meters on the 200 block of King Street. The adjacent blocks along King Street to the west and many of the intersecting streets are currently managed with two hour metered parking.

City Council approved the expenditure of \$60,000 for purchase and installation of multi-space meters in these two blocks of King Street in the approved budget for FY2011. Assuming a half-year of revenue and operation costs, the meters would generate \$69,300 in revenue and cost \$3,000 to operate in FY 2011 for net revenue of \$6,300 after deducting the cost of installation. In FY 2012 and beyond, they would generate \$138,600 in revenue and cost \$6,000 to operate annually. Revenue calculations are based on the increase of parking meter rates to \$1.75, which is also part of the FY 2011 approved budget.

Installation of multi-space meters in this heavily-used segment of King Street was a recommendation in the Old Town Area Parking Study. It is proposed as part of a broader strategy to encourage more turnover in the City's on-street parking stock and ultimately support higher retail and restaurant sales. By simultaneously raising on-street meter rates, installing multi-space meters (to accept variable forms of payment such as credit cards or cash) and improving wayfinding to parking garages, the City seeks to improve convenience and availability of short-term (on-street) parking and encourage long-term parking in garages.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 24, 2010**

DOCKET ITEM: 6

ISSUE: Consideration of an ordinance to require holders of handicap license plates or placards to pay for parking in metered zones.

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

LOCATION: Parking Metered Zones

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Traffic and Parking Board recommend to City Council that vehicles with handicapped designations be required to pay for metered parking.

DISCUSSION: In Alexandria, vehicles displaying handicap license plates or placards are currently exempted from parking fees pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 46.2-1245. The code establishes a uniform statewide exemption for vehicles displaying handicap license plates or placards of (1) up four hours in time-restricted parking zones or metered spaces, and (2) from payment of parking meter fees, but permits local jurisdictions to set aside these exemptions by ordinance.

In 1998, Arlington County adopted an “All may park, All must pay” policy. Under this policy, the same hourly rate is charged to all customers, including vehicles displaying handicap license plates or placards. Consideration of a similar ‘All may park, All must pay’ policy was a recommendation in the Old Town Area Parking Study which Council received in April 2010. It is proposed as part of a broader strategy to better manage on-street parking and reduce the potential for abuse by holders of handicap permits.

During deliberations on the FY2011 budget, Council requested a memo (Budget Memo #75) on the fiscal impact of implementing an ‘All may park, All must pay’ policy. This memo estimated that implementation of such a policy would generate approximately \$133,000 in additional revenue in FY2011. The memo also restated findings from 2009 field observations in parking meter Zone 3 (Carlyle) when staff found a relatively high proportion of vehicles with portable handicap placards, indicating potential abuse. City Council then voted on Monday, May 3 to accept a change to the proposed general fund operating budget based on implementation of an “All may park, All must pay’ policy.

Implementation of the proposed policy will be coordinated with a City Manager-appointed work group requested by City Council to address Old Town parking issues. This work group will include a representative from the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Staff currently proposes to implement the policy in parking meter zones 1 and 2 (Old Town) by erecting new single-space meters at existing designated handicap spaces that would allow holders of license plates or placards to park for up to four hours. The City will maintain existing handicap parking spaces in all metered zones and install new handicap spaces on an as-needed basis and in consultation with the work group.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 24, 2010**

DOCKET ITEM: 7

ISSUE: Consideration of an ordinance to set a schedule for review of proposed code changes and to consolidate the 2009 and 2010 annual review and report.

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

LOCATION: City Wide

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Traffic and Parking Board set a schedule for the review of the proposed code changes and recommend the consolidation of the 2009 and 2010 annual review and report to City Council.

DISCUSSION: The 2009 annual review and report of the Alexandria taxi industry was postponed until June 2010 to allow a working group to develop code revision recommendations. The reason for the postponement was because the 2005 code is creating some unanticipated problems in the industry. Specifically, one taxi company has been shut down and two other taxi companies are in jeopardy of being shut down due to failure to comply with the dispatch requirements; while the companies in compliance are losing much of their fleet due to transfers. At the April 2010 Traffic and Parking Board meeting the Board approved the taxicab working group's recommendations. These approved recommendations are being incorporated into code changes which will come before the Board for a recommendation to Council.

Staff is recommending that the Traffic and Parking Board hold a public hearing at the June 2010 meeting.

Staff will hold meetings with drivers on a company by company basis during the month of June to solicit input.