
SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Fees to Bag Parking Meters & Reserve Restricted Curb Space

AFFECTED COUNCIL DISTRICTS: Citywide and specifically Council District 4

STAFF REPORT BY: Gary Mumford

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT. AND CONTACT PERSON: Community & Economic Development
Tim Harpst, Transportation Director

KEY ELEMENTS:

Upon presenting a valid request, the City will reserve parking meters by placing a bag over meters and by issuing dash board permits for authorized vehicles. Prior to July 2002, the fee for reserving each parking space was \$10 per day for the first day, \$5 per day for the next fourteen days, and \$3 per day thereafter. Perhaps because of the low fee structure, some curb space may have been reserved for extended periods of time beyond actual needs. To provide an incentive to keep parking spaces in service to the public, the City implemented a \$50 per day fee in July 2002. The larger fee has been successful in decreasing the amount of requests and number of days that parking spaces have been taken out of service.

The Administration noted in its transmittal that the increase in the fees has caused considerable hardship in certain instances. The \$50 per day fee may also have a detrimental impact on the desirability to hold major conventions and functions. The Administration proposes that a \$25 per day fee may be more appropriate while continuing to provide the incentive to keep parking spaces available to the public.

MATTERS AT ISSUE/QUESTIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION:

The Administration developed a revised proposed fee schedule in consultation with representatives of the Downtown Alliance, Delta Center and the Visitors & Convention Bureau. Other entities, such as the Utah Film Commission, have requested that the City reconsider the fee structure. A \$25 fee adequately recoups the City's costs to process permits and bag the meters according to the Administration's transmittal.

In addition to adjusting the fee, the proposed ordinance includes some incentives to encourage filming within the City and hosting large scale conferences and other events downtown.

- The proposed ordinance sets a \$10 per space per day for requests from movie, television and commercial filming companies.
- The proposed ordinance sets a reduced fee of \$10 per space per day for major events of at least three days in duration and with an expected attendance of at least 5,000 people.

The proposed ordinance also provides for fee waivers for 501(c)3 non-profit organizations (up to 60 days annually) or for City-sponsored events. Organizations for religious, charitable, or educational purposes are examples of 501(c)3 organizations. Professional associations that hold seminars and conferences for members may also be 501(c)3 organizations. *Because of the lack of a fee incentive to keep parking spaces in service to the public, the Council may wish to discuss with the Administration what procedures will be put into place to ensure that these organizations will reserve parking spaces only when absolutely necessary.*

The higher fees have been successful in reducing the number of parking spaces reserved based on actual revenue versus budget. Estimated revenue reflected in the budget was \$140,000 for fiscal year 2002-03. Actual fee revenue for eight months is \$49,800. Council staff estimates that annual revenue will be about \$75,000 by June 30, 2003. The Administration estimates that lowering the fee to \$25 will not have a "significant impact" on revenue. However, Council staff calculates that if the lower fees don't result in more spaces being reserved, annual revenue will be less by \$37,500 (50% of \$75,000 since the proposed \$25 fee is 50% of the current \$50 fee). The reduction could be more because of the reduced fees for the film/TV industry and for large events. The revenue loss could be less if there are more legitimate needs for reserving parking spaces. *The Council may wish to discuss with the Administration the projected reductions in revenue and confirm that the Administration is planning for this reduction in its proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2004.*

No additional fee is proposed for closing an entire street. If there are parking meters located on the street to be closed, the fee for reserving the curb side parking will still apply. Most of the street closures are related to City events or parades. *The Council may wish to discuss the option of establishing street closure fees with the Administration.*

cc: Rocky Fluhart, David Nimkin, Alison Weyher, David Dobbins, Tim Harpst, Scott Vaterlaus, JD Baxter
