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# M E M O R A N D U M

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**DATE:** August 14, 2008  
**TO:** City Council Members  
**FROM:** Russell Weeks  
**RE:** Proposed Ordinance amending Salt Lake City Code 12.56.205 pertaining to free metered parking for alternative-fuel, fuel-efficient and low-polluting vehicles.  
**CC:** Cindy Gust-Jenson, David Everitt, Lyn Creswell, Frank Gray, Esther Hunter, Mary De La Mare-Schaeffer, Tim Harpst, Jennifer Bruno, Dan Bergenthal, Vicki Bennett

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This memorandum is intended to address issues pertaining to a proposed amendment to *Salt Lake City Code 12.56.205* that grants free metered parking to alternative-fuel, fuel-efficient and low-polluting vehicles. The City Council adopted the original ordinance in February 2006. According to the Administration, the proposed amendment would lower the City's threshold for fuel efficiency – in conformance with the federal Environmental Protection Agency's new method for estimating vehicle fuel efficiency. The item is scheduled for City Council briefing during the Council's August 19 work session.

## OPTIONS

- Adopt the proposed ordinance.
- Do not adopt the proposed ordinance.

## MOTIONS

- I move that the City Council adopt the ordinance amending *Salt Lake City Code* Section 12.56.205 pertaining to free metered parking for alternative-fuel, fuel-efficient and low-polluting vehicles.
- I move that the City Council consider the next item on the agenda.

## KEY POINTS

- Based on the federal Environmental Protection Agency's new method for determining vehicle fuel efficiency, the proposed ordinance would change the definition of a "fuel efficient vehicle" from a vehicle powered by gasoline or diesel that achieves a city driving fuel efficiency of 50 miles per gallon of fuel or more to a vehicle that achieves a city driving fuel efficiency of 41 miles per gallon or more.
- All other requirements in the existing Section 12.56.205 would remain the same.

- The Administration recommends that the City Council hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment. However, a public hearing might not be necessary given the singularity of the change.

### **ISSUES/QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- In 2006, the Administration estimated that roughly 3,500 vehicles statewide would be qualify for their owners to obtain a sticker from the City Transportation Division as either “alternative fuel,” “fuel efficient,” or “low polluting” vehicles. The sticker would allow drivers of those vehicles to park free at metered parking in Salt Lake City. The Administration also estimated that the cost of the program would at most be \$8,469 a year from the loss of parking meter revenue plus a minor increase in labor costs. Since then, the Transportation Division has issued 478 free-parking permit decals for fuel-efficient and low-polluting vehicles – about one-seventh of the estimated statewide total of those kinds of vehicles. The Transportation Division’s best estimate of parking meter revenue lost due to the program is \$1,200. The cost of printing the stickers is estimated at \$200.

### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The City Council adopted Ordinance No. 11 of 2006 in February that year enacting City Code Section 12.56.205 to provide free parking at metered spaces for alternative fuel, fuel efficient and low polluting vehicles.

The goal in 2006 was “to encourage the ownership and use of motor-driven vehicles that help improve air quality while reducing the United States’ dependence on imported oil,” according to the Administration transmittal from that year.

The ordinance allows the vehicles to be parked free at Salt Lake City meters if:

- Alternative fuel vehicles have Utah Clean Fuel license plates on them.
- The other vehicles display a decal issued by the Salt Lake City Transportation Division.

Owners of those vehicles have to apply to the Transportation Division for a decal identifying the vehicles as qualifying for free metered parking either as fuel-efficient or low-polluting vehicles. The Division each year publishes a list of makes and models of vehicles that qualify under the City’s program as either fuel efficient or low-pollution vehicles.

Since the Council enacted the original ordinance, the EPA has changed the method for estimating fuel efficiency, according to the Administration transmittal. The new method takes into account the effects of faster speeds and acceleration, the use of air conditioners in vehicles, and colder outside temperatures.

# SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

FRANK B. GRAY  
DIRECTOR


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RALPH BECKER  
MAYOR

MARY DELAMARE-SCHAEFER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROBERT FARRINGTON, JR.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## CITY COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Everitt, Chief of Staff

Date Received: 7-3-08

Date Sent to City Council: 7/9/08

**TO:** Salt Lake City Council  
Jill Remington-Love, Chair

**DATE:** July 1, 2008

**FROM:** Frank Gray, Community & Economic Development Director

**RE:** An ordinance amending Section 12.56.205, Salt Lake City Code, pertaining to Parking Meters - No Charge for Alternative Fuel, Fuel Efficient, and Low Polluting Vehicles

**STAFF CONTACT:** Tim Harpst, Transportation Director, at 535-6630 or [tim.harpst@slcgov.com](mailto:tim.harpst@slcgov.com)  
Dan Bergenthal, Transportation Engineer, at 535-7106 or [dan.bergenthal@slcgov.com](mailto:dan.bergenthal@slcgov.com)

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council schedule a briefing and hold a public hearing

**DOCUMENT TYPE:** Ordinance

**BUDGET IMPACT:** None

### DISCUSSION:

**Issue Origin:** In January 2006, the City adopted an ordinance which allows free metered parking for alternative fuel, fuel efficient, and low polluting vehicles. The City defined a "fuel efficient vehicle" as one capable of achieving "a city driving fuel efficiency of 50 or more miles per gallon." In practice, the City determines a vehicle's fuel efficiency based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ratings. The EPA has recently updated its method of estimating motor vehicle fuel efficiency. Therefore, for consistency in application, it is recommended that the City's definition of "fuel efficient vehicle" be updated to reflect this change.

**Analysis:** With the introduction of model year 2008 vehicles, the EPA introduced the new methodology for estimating motor vehicle fuel efficiency. The new 2008 model year estimates reflect the effects of faster speeds and acceleration, air conditioner use, and colder outside temperatures. The fuel economy estimates available on the EPA websites for model years prior to 2008 have also been recalculated using

the new methodology. As a result, fuel economy estimates for 2007 and earlier years for most models are lower than the estimates listed originally in the EPA Fuel Economy Guide and posted on the fuel economy window sticker on new cars. The EPA is confident that the estimates produced by its new methodology are more representative of real-world conditions.

Using the EPA website calculator provided to convert pre-2008 miles per gallon fuel efficiency estimates to the new estimates (see: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/ratings2008.shtml>), our current City driving fuel efficiency value of 50 miles per gallon is equivalent to a new fuel efficiency value of 41 miles per gallon. Modifying the ordinance as proposed allows the same vehicles that qualified for this incentive to continue to qualify for it.

***Master Plan Considerations:*** None

**PUBLIC PROCESS:**

None

**RELEVANT ORDINANCES:**

Salt Lake City Code 12.56.205 Parking Meters - No Charge for Alternative Fuel, Fuel Efficient, and Low Polluting Vehicles.

SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008  
(Amending definition of "Fuel Efficient Vehicle" to qualify for free parking within the  
city)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12.56.205, SALT LAKE CITY  
CODE, PERTAINING TO PARKING METERS – NO CHARGE FOR ALTERNATIVE  
FUEL, FUEL EFFICIENT AND LOW POLLUTING VEHICLES.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah:

SECTION 1. That Section 12.56.205, Salt Lake City Code, pertaining to Parking  
Meters - No Charge For Alternative Fuel, Fuel Efficient And Low Polluting Vehicles be,  
and the same hereby is, enacted to read as follows:

**12.56.205 Parking Meters - No Charge For Alternative Fuel, Fuel Efficient And Low  
Polluting Vehicles:**

A. The following definitions shall apply to this section:

1. "Alternative fuel" means propane, compressed natural gas, electricity, or  
any motor or special fuel that meets the clean fuel vehicle standards in the federal clean  
air act amendments of 1990, title II, as amended.

2. "Alternative fuel vehicle" means a vehicle with an engine powered full or  
part time by an alternative fuel.

3. "Clean fuel license plate" means a special group license plate issued by the  
Utah Department of Motor Vehicles as authorized by Utah code 41-1a-418, or its  
successor.

4. "Division" means the city's transportation division.

5. "Fuel efficient vehicle" means a vehicle that is powered by gasoline or  
diesel that achieves a city driving fuel efficiency of forty one (41) or more miles  
per gallon.

6. "Low polluting vehicle" means a vehicle that achieves an environmental protection agency (EPA) air pollution score of at least eight (8) on the EPA vehicle rating scale of zero to ten (0 - 10).

B. 1. The division shall issue a vehicle windshield sticker to all persons applying for such sticker who provide evidence acceptable to the division that the vehicle for which the sticker is desired is a "fuel efficient vehicle" or a "low polluting vehicle" as defined in subsection A of this section. Motorcycles and other vehicles that are not automobiles shall not be issued a sticker pursuant to this section.

2. The recipient of the sticker shall affix it only to the bottom of the driver's side of the rear window of the vehicle for which it is issued so that it is readily visible.

C. Parking meter spaces may be used without charge on all days of the week at all hours by vehicles properly displaying the sticker referred to in subsection B of this section or vehicles displaying a clean fuel license plate.

D. No person parking a vehicle without charge pursuant to this section shall park or permit such vehicle to remain parked in any parking meter space adjacent to a meter for a continuous period longer than that designated on the meter, nor shall they park in restricted spaces pursuant to section 12.56.180 of this chapter.

E. In assessing the evidence provided by an applicant for such sticker as set forth in subsection B1 of this section, the division may consider:

1. The fuel efficiency information for particular years and models of vehicles determined by the department of energy and the environment protection agency as shown in their website at [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) or its successor website; and

2. The EPA's annual "Green Vehicle Guide" as found at the website [www.epa.gov/greenvehicles](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles) or its successor website.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of its first publication.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

Transmitted to Mayor on \_\_\_\_\_.

Mayor's Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved. \_\_\_\_\_ Vetoed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Salt Lake City Attorney's Office  
Date June 10, 2008  
By Melanie Pfeif

(SEAL)

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008.  
Published: \_\_\_\_\_.

SALT LAKE CITY ORDINANCE  
No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008  
(Amending definition of "Fuel Efficient Vehicle" to qualify for free parking within the  
city)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12.56.205, SALT LAKE CITY  
CODE, PERTAINING TO PARKING METERS – NO CHARGE FOR ALTERNATIVE  
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SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the date of its first publication.

Passed by the City Council of Salt Lake City, Utah this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

Transmitted to Mayor on \_\_\_\_\_.

Mayor's Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved. \_\_\_\_\_ Vetoed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF DEPUTY CITY RECORDER

(SEAL)

Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008.  
Published: \_\_\_\_\_.