City of FRESNO **REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM NO.	1 N
COUNCIL MEETING	2/28/08
APPROVED BY	
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR	
CITY MANAGER	

February 26, 2008

FROM: PATRICK N. WIEMILLER, Director
Public Works Department

BY: DEL ESTABROOKE, Parking Manager
Public Works Department, Parking Services Division

SUBJECT: AMEND CITY OF FRESNO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 14-308 TO DELETE THE PROVISION ALLOWING CERTAIN GOVERNMENT VEHICLES TO PARK FREE AT DOWNTOWN PARKING METERS OR TIMED ZONES

KEY RESULT AREA

Customer Satisfaction, Financial Management

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Council amend Fresno Municipal Code Section 14-308 to repeal the current exemption for official government vehicles from traffic regulations pertaining to parking meters and timed zones.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The downtown area continues to expand. The skyline is radically different from five years ago. Governmental entities and private business are moving into this area and need parking for their customers and visitors. Each workday, our downtown parking meters and timed parking zones are occupied very early by local or state government vehicles. Upwards of 100 government vehicles, many identified as either Caltrans or Fresno County vehicles, are parked in these high traffic areas on a daily basis. These vehicles park for free beyond the stall's allotted time, sometimes occupying the space the entire day, and take up valued customer parking.

Staff recommends that the City Council amend the Fresno Municipal Code to prohibit certain vehicles from parking for free at on-street metered and timed zones in downtown Fresno for excessive periods of time. Vehicles may still utilize time zones identified by painted curbs or posted signs, but only for the posted time limit. All stalls regulated by a parking meter would require the occupant to feed the meter and obey the meter's time limit in accordance with the City of Fresno Master Fee Schedule.

This ordinance amendment provides a concentrated effort to facilitate the public coming to the downtown area and provide adequate on-street parking. Patrons of downtown businesses will have more on-street parking available, which can increase the number of customers.

KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE

Amending this ordinance satisfies the Customer Service Key Result Area. Citizens needing parking will not become frustrated when they are unable to access parking stalls in close proximity to downtown businesses due to the presence of government vehicles, which park at the "red arrow" meters indicating that parking has not been paid.

This proposal also satisfies the Financial Management result area. Parking Services absorbs an estimated revenue loss of $1.20 per meter per day, with over 100 meters occupied by government vehicles each day for about 20 workdays each month. Providing the public access to these meters allows the Parking Enterprise Fund to recover those lost revenues, which averages $2,500 per month or $30,000 annually.

BACKGROUND

The Parking Services Division has implemented time zones or parking meters in certain time increments based on the needs of the surrounding areas. Many of these zones or parking spaces are limited to one hour or two hour occupancy, regulated by a parking meter or posted signage indicating time limits. Emergency vehicles such as Police, Fire, public utility vehicles, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles, being operated for their intended use may park in these areas for free without regard to the time limit. The current ordinance also grants Federal, State, County, and local vehicles displaying distinctive license plates, or "E" plates, from having to obey the time constraints.

Each workday morning it is not uncommon to discover row after row of parking metered stalls occupied by these "E" plate type of vehicles, often exceeding the time limits on the stalls. The desired result of the FMC amendment is that these vehicles will only occupy these spaces for their allotted times and that they pay the standard rate for the stall's usage. Storage beyond the one or two hour period would be available in the many City-operated off-street parking garages and parking lots, or in each agency's private lots. Public as well as private facilities are available in close proximity to almost all downtown government agencies. Reducing the number of government vehicles parked at on-street meters and time zones allows more stalls for the visiting public to use when conducting business downtown, and maintains their intended "turn-over" of one to two hours so that they are available more often during the day.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed amendment to the ordinance may result in revenue increases of up to $30,000 per year.

BILL NO. _____

ORDINANCE NO._____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, RELAINT TO AMENDING SECTION 14-308 SUBSECTION (d) OF THE FRESNO MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES [FROM TRAFFIC REGULATIONS]

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Subsection (d) of Section 14-308 of the Fresno Municipal Code is amended to read:

SECTION 14-308. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN VEHICLES.

(d) The provisions of this chapter regulating the parking or standing of vehicles on public streets and highways in metered or nonmetered one-hour or two-hour parking zones shall not apply to the following:

(1) ~~Vehicles displaying a distinctive license plate which indicates that they are owned and operated by the United States government, the government of any foreign country, the State of California, any county, city or other public entity, while on official duty.~~

~~(2)~~ Public utility service vehicles subject to an agreement with the city, in accordance with rules and regulations as may be established from time to time by the Public Works Director governing such agreements. For parking in metered parking zones, such agreements shall provide for a method of payment to the city of not less than those amounts which would otherwise be payable in the metered parking zone.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective and in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first day after its passage.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the ____ _____ day of _____, 2008.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2008

Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2008

Mayor Veto: _____, 2008

Council Override Vote: _____, 2008

REBECCA E. KLISCH
City Clerk

BY:_____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY: R 1-24-08
Robert R. Coyle, Senior Deputy

RRC:sn [43825sn/rrc/ORD] 1/24/08