



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 2, 2022

Re: Amend chapter 14 of the code of ordinances to include language to allow for enforcement against permit holders parking in hourly spaces within the parking garages.

Executive Summary

Staff is asking that council amend chapter 14 to add language allowing parking enforcement to issue tickets to vehicles parked in hourly spaces who are in possession of a permit for the garage. The public may only park in these hourly spaces and staff has noticed that several vehicles with permits are occupying these spaces thus reducing capacity for the public. The parking enforcement is supervised by the Columbia Police Department. The anticipated fine will be established by the judge, but is estimated to be \$15.50 plus court costs if the defendant goes to court.

Discussion

There has been an increase in the number of vehicles that are parking within hourly spaces in the garages while having a permit for the garage. The public is only allowed to park in designated hourly locations within the garages between 8am and 6pm Monday through Friday, so by having permit holders for the garage take these spaces, the availability for public parking is decreased; as the public is not allowed to park in areas designated as permit parking during these times and can be ticketed for doing so.

Prior to the addition of the gate system in the garages, vehicles were required to pay for parking upon arrival in the garages. Enforcement would then issue tickets to any vehicle that was in a space that wasn't paid for, much like the enforcement of on-street metered parking. As such, permit holders would not use the hourly spaces as it meant they would need to pay the hourly rate on top of their permit rate, or face being issued a ticket. While the gate system has effectively taken over the enforcement of paying for parking in the garage, it has also created the ability for permit holders to enter the garage, use an hourly space, and then exit the garage without having to pay the hourly rate and without threat of being ticketed.

All parking enforcement is supervised by the Columbia Police Department. In the Code of Ordinance, Sec. 14-77. - Schedule of costs, states that: "The judge shall establish a schedule of costs to be paid in connection with pleas of guilty which are processed in the traffic violations bureau. Such costs shall not exceed the court costs established for cases in which the defendant appears before the judge." Staff checked with court staff and it appears that the fine will be \$15.50 plus appropriate court costs if the defendant goes to court.

The ordinance will be effective upon adoption by Council.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Increased availability of public spaces would increase the potential for hourly revenue.

Long-Term Impact: Enter the cost of proposed legislation to the city for years **beyond two**.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Economy, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------|--------|
| N/A | N/A |

Suggested Council Action

Staff is asking council to approve the amendment to Chapter 14, Sec. 14-393 to include language that would allow for parking enforcement to issue tickets to permit holders parking in designated hourly spaces in the parking garages.