



Date: March 14, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Councilwoman Suzie Price, Third District *SP*
Councilwoman Jeannine Pearce, Second District *JP*

From: Councilman Daryl Supernaw, Fourth District *DS*
Councilman Dee Andrews, Sixth District *DA*

Subject: Handicapped Parking in City Lots

INTRODUCTION:

California state traffic law allows for drivers with a visible handicapped license plate or placard to park in an on-street metered parking space at no charge. This exists in order to make accommodations for their disabilities and acknowledge that parking often comes at a premium, so finding an available handicapped parking space may be more difficult than finding an available metered space. The city owns a number of parking lots, some are proactively patrolled to enforce that meters have been paid, these lots require parking fees be paid prior to the time that the car will be parked. And other parking lots, parking garages, and parking structures are not patrolled but instead require drivers take a ticket and get validation, pay at a kiosk, or pay at the gate on the way out of the lot after the period of time in the parking space has been completed.

For lots where drivers pay when they first park as opposed to when they leave, it has become an issue for disabled Long Beach residents who are able to park throughout the city without paying, but are not afforded that same right inside city lots, which leads to confusion, frustration, and accidental incidents where meters go unpaid.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council is requesting the City Attorney report back within 30 days with a draft ordinance that would extend this state policy to the lots that are proactively enforced and owned by the city while all other operational policies and rules for these lots remain in place.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is not a significant financial impact as a result of the recommended action as handicapped spots do not result in a major source of income.