

May 19, 2004

Honorable Mayor and Members of
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular meeting of
May 25, 2004

**PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM TO PARK IN THE PREFERENTIAL PERMIT AREAS AND
AT METERS**

Recommendation:

That the City Council consider a Parking Permit Program for those that live outside the preferential area and provide direction to staff to develop a program and set a date for a public hearing to receive input on a proposed plan.

Background:

Staff was directed to return with a survey and proposal to implement a Parking Permit Program. The intent of the program is to provide a permit to residents that would allow them to park in designated public parking area without paying the meter. A number of coastal cities have similar programs that allow owners of registered vehicles to purchase a permit that allows them to park without paying the meters. Several of these programs are attached to this report. There are probably more than we have attached but they all seem to have a permit that can be purchased that allow the holder to park in a metered space without feeding the meter. Many of the cities also have preferential parking areas like the ones that we operate that only permit residents that live in the area to buy a permit. As you know, the City of Hermosa Beach has operated the present Preferential Parking Program for more than 20 years. This program allows the holder to park on one of the designated streets and at the yellow meters when the permit is displayed. The cost of the permit is \$32.00 per year. In addition, we also have a merchants and employee program that allow the holder to park in the same areas. The cost for the merchant permit is \$60.00 per year. The total number of resident permits issued under this program is 9,442 and 336 are issued to merchants and employees. The entire Preferential Parking Permit Program operates under a permit from the Coastal Commission.

If the City Council were interested in developing a Residential Parking Permit Program, staff would appreciate some further direction. One option would be simply to add the availability of the permit to vehicles that are registered outside the present area. Residents could be charged a fee that was similar to what is charged now and the areas where it is valid would be the same. This would be a change from the way it is done now, as both the resident and vehicle must be tied to a home in the Preferential Parking Area. This might have some impact on parking availability in the impacted area. A second option would be to add a new permit that was allowed to be used in silver meter locations. None of the permits that we issue now are allowed to be used in the commercial or silver meter locations. There might be an issue with the merchants if the spaces ended up without turnover. A third option would be to allow holders of these permits to park only at metered locations. This would leave the non-metered areas where a number of residents park without adding the competition of these new permit holders looking for a place to park. This is really no different than if the new holders paid the meters in terms of the competition for the empty parking spaces. The weekends are like this now, especially in the summer and good weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Burrell
City Manager