

October 8, 2003

Honorable Chairman and Members of
the Hermosa Beach Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting of
October 22, 2003

DISABLED PARKING SPACES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Public Works Commission assist staff in developing a policy for Council consideration regarding the placement of disabled parking spaces in the public right-of-way.

Summary:

The City has had a long-standing policy (over 20 years) of designating a disabled parking space in the public right-of-way upon receiving a request from a qualified resident. The only requirement was that the applicant submit proof of handicapped status. The spot is still considered a "public" space but for all intent and purposes primarily serves the individual residence. There are approximately 20 such spaces spread throughout the City. Up until last year staff had received very few complaints regarding this policy. Over the last 6 months staff has started to receive numerous complaints regarding these restricted parking spaces. Some concerns expressed are that residents are not using the space and want them only to prevent others parking in front of their homes. Others are simply exasperated at the shortage of public parking available.

Parking is becoming increasingly scarce and staff believes that the time has come to develop a reasonable policy to address some of the concerns of residents.

Staff believes that a new policy should consider the following:

- Public noticing of proposed disabled parking space – presently staff does not issue any notice.
- The applicant could be required to demonstrate why they cannot provide the needed disabled access on their own private property (i.e. driveway).
- Perhaps require an applicant to submit a petition with approval of majority of neighbors within say 500-feet?
- Set a limit to one disabled space in any residential block. Two were installed on 10th Street, which became very inflammatory in the neighborhood.
- Limit term to two years and conduct investigation to determine if need still exists.

Staff has placed a moratorium on installing new disabled spaces pending development of this new policy. Another issue to deal with is the requests to remove some of the spaces that have already been permitted. Staff has a list of existing applicants where spaces have been located and will be contacting them to verify that they still meet disabled status, one location was installed in 1985!

Attachment: Public Notice

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

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