



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7

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### CONSENT CALENDAR

July 25, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Gordon Wozniak

Subject: Referral to the City Manager for a special pilot residential parking policy for neighborhoods bordering the Southside after consultation with the affected neighborhoods

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council refer to the City Manager the development of a pilot program under which one side of certain streets will be designated for residential parking only, while the other areas will remain under the current 2-hour parking limit for non-residential-permit holders, to be implemented in the part of town between Dwight Way on the north, Parker Street on the south, College Avenue on the east, and Telegraph Avenue on the west, with final boundaries, hours and days of enforcement, and other specifics to be determined with neighborhood input. If successful in the pilot, the program may be implemented as needed in any neighborhood impacted by new and expanding institutions, facilities, and developments.

#### BACKGROUND:

Residents of the northern ends of the Willard neighborhood suffer major parking problems because of their proximity to the university, including new Underhill Project facilities and several of the university's major attractions (Haas Pavilion, Zellerbach Hall, the Recreational Sports Facility, several museums, the Greek Theater, and Memorial Stadium); to several well-attended churches and a seminary; and to the Telegraph business district. Informal surveys of the northern blocks of Willard Neighborhood show that during the day and evening, about 50% of all vehicles parked on the street are without permit, that the streets are parked to capacity at almost all hours, and that residents regularly have difficulty parking within 500 feet of their homes at all times of day and night. These facts violate the intent and provisions of the Preferential Parking Program ordinance, whose goal is a 25% parking vacancy rate, and which states: "the excessive and burdensome practice of nonresidents [parking for extended periods in] certain areas and neighborhoods... detracts from a healthy and complete urban environment" and "the continued vitality of Berkeley." Willard Neighborhood Association has expressed its support for this pilot parking program in a letter to the City.

Although improvements have been made, all efforts to enforce the 2-hour limit on visitor parking have been unsuccessful, in part because enforcement has never been adequate, but increasingly because university students and staff have found various strategies to evade enforcement. However, even if the two-hour visitor limit were enforced, two hours is adequate time to attend church services and other events, and for university students to get to class and back, and for university staff now working at the new dining

commons and the RSSB building to utilize neighborhood parking while they are at work.

*Benefits:*

- This pilot parking program will bring much-needed and long overdue residential parking relief to the area in question. One-side-of-the-street restrictions on visitor parking are not unusual in cities around the US; in fact, some cities prohibit *all* visitor parking in similar circumstances.
- Prohibition of visitor parking on one side of the street will significantly increasing parking fine revenues per officer/time spent, because cars will be ticketed during a single pass by an enforcement officer, rather than requiring two passes. Thus the pilot program should soon pay for itself, and if it is expanded to other areas of the city, increase City parking enforcement revenues wherever implemented.
- The program, if successful in the pilot, can be easily expanded to and benefit other neighborhoods of the City as parking becomes more difficult citywide, including neighborhoods around downtown and the university, and around other new developments, such as the proposed Berkeley Bowl in West Berkeley.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

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