




Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 10, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Douglas N. Hambleton, Chief of Police

Subject: Parking Enforcement Mission and Policy Statement

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution endorsing the mission and policy statement that provides a clear message and direction to the residents of Berkeley, the Police Department and the Department of Public Works relative to parking enforcement goals.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no costs identified in responding to this audit recommendation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Department of Public Works, Office of Transportation (OOT) and the Police Department's Parking Enforcement Unit has an outstanding working relationship that has fostered collaboration in all aspects of enforcement and maintenance. The attached Mission and Policy Statement outline the goals and objectives of parking enforcement. Employees have already been operating under these guidelines, which have helped set the atmosphere for the quality work and increased productivity that is currently being performed by these units.

BACKGROUND

At its March 8, 2005 meeting, Council received the City Auditor's internal audit report titled "Audit of Parking Enforcement Operation." It contained 13 findings and 20 recommendations.

On March 7, 2006 the City Manager reported to Council that thirteen of the audit recommendations had been fully implemented, five had been partially implemented, and two had not yet been implemented. The purpose of this report is to request Council adopt a resolution endorsing a mission and policy statement for City parking enforcement. Establishment of a Council approved parking enforcement mission statement and policy directive will result in the implementation of audit recommendation 4.1 from the parking audit. Recommendation 4.1 is as follows:

Finding 4: Parking Enforcement goals of the city appear inconsistent.

Auditor's Recommendation 4.1: We recommend that the City Manager draft and submit to Council for approval a mission statement and policy directive regarding parking enforcement. While alluded to in the General Plan, the main goals of parking enforcement are not explicitly, publicly, and clearly stated. By stating the reasons for enforcement, goals can be established and the Department's performance in reaching those goals can be measured using appropriate performance measures. This policy should clearly define to the Police Department and the Office of Transportation, as well as to residents, the City's goals and objectives for parking enforcement and how to meet them.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The mission statement and policy directive outlines the goals and objectives for parking enforcement.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Stephanie Fleming, Captain, Police Department, 981-5810

Peter Hillier, Assistant City Manager for Transportation, Public Works Department, 981-7010

Attachments:

1: Resolution

Exhibit A: Parking Enforcement Mission and Policy Statement

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT MISSION AND POLICY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley is committed to protecting public safety; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Parking Enforcement Unit is to mitigate traffic congestion and promote parking turnover and access throughout the City by enforcing parking regulations ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley wishes to clearly define, for its residents, the Police Department and the Department of Public Works, the mission and purpose of parking enforcement; and

WHEREAS, parking enforcement will be carried out vigorously, yet fairly and efficiently.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the mission and policy statement of the Police Department Parking Enforcement Unit as attached in Exhibit A.

Mission Statement

The Police Department and the Department of Public Works are committed to the efficient operations of all aspects of Parking Enforcement. We are a public service organization working to improve parking access, availability, traffic safety, management, and maintenance while encouraging the efficient movement of traffic throughout the City.

Policy

It is the policy of the City of Berkeley to protect public safety, mitigate traffic congestion and promote parking turnover and access throughout the City by enforcing parking regulations. The City of Berkeley is also committed to ensuring that employees have a safe and secure working environment while performing their duties. The City of Berkeley will not tolerate unlawful behavior toward Parking Enforcement Officers.

Parking Enforcement Purpose

The purpose of Parking Enforcement is to mitigate traffic congestion and promote parking turnover. Parking turnover is created by the consistent enforcement of parking regulations, resulting in available parking in densely populated parking areas.

The Parking Enforcement Unit will accomplish its goals by insuring that appropriate enforcement is carried out vigorously, yet fairly and efficiently. Parking regulation enforcement includes general enforcement of metered and time zone areas, residential permit parking, disabled access restrictions, street sweeping, commercial and other restricted zones, as well as the removal of abandoned vehicles and vehicles with five or more outstanding citations. The issuance of citations provides an incentive for citizens to comply with regulations, which in turn improves accessibility, increases parking availability and encourages the efficient movement of traffic.