

Consent Calender
December 11, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Dona Spring
Subject: Downtown Street Cleaning

RECOMMENDATION:

Request that the City Manager return to Council with a plan for improving the cleaning of streets in the downtown area, including the feasibility of limiting overnight parking on some downtown streets occasionally so that streets can be thoroughly cleaned and to report back to Council within four months.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Street Sweeping the Downtown Area is funded within the current budget.

BACKGROUND:

The City sweeps the commercial area of Downtown regularly at night to keep it clean. Increasingly overnight parking by a growing residential population is defraying the efficiency of this effort and some curb areas are rarely swept. Unswept curb areas not only contribute negatively to the appearance of Downtown, debris often blows around and eventually ends up clogging the storm drains. The current sweeping is becoming increasingly ineffective.

A modest effort to insure full sweeping would be an improvement. If key streets are posted for no-parking one night a week between 2:00 AM and 7:00 AM (when businesses are closed, the area will be cleaner and our resources better used.

The introduction of no-parking overnight on an occasional basis may prove useful and create flexibility in terms of the City's future needs. In addition, it is important that residents living near the City's Transit Hub not take free parking for granted, especially on public property. It is not good policy to undermine the operation of a public service (street sweeping) on a public street to provide free parking for private vehicles which are in the area only because of a policy to provide housing close to transit so that people do not need private vehicles.

This program will not be costly to the City. In the long run it may possibly be revenue producing. Anticipated ticket revenue and storm drain cleaning savings should more than offset the cost of noticing, posting and enforcement.

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