



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 13, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police

Subject: Agreement between the City of Berkeley and Alta Bates Medical Center regarding Parking Enforcement by use of Mobile License Plate Reader

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the donation of one ELSAG Parking Enforcement License Plate Reader system from Alta Bates Medical Center to enhance the enforcement of residential parking rules in the 14-block residential area (“Core Area” as defined in the use permit) surrounding the Alta Bates Medical Center (ABMC).

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The cost of the ELSAG License Plate Reading (LPR) system is \$49,279 and the annual maintenance cost is \$1,600. Alta Bates Medical Center will pay the initial costs. After the first year (effective FY 2012), the City will pay for the annual maintenance cost from Parking Meter Funds budgeted in the Police Department budget (840-7303-420-3034).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

There continue to be problems associated with vehicles parking in violation of the Residential Parking Permit rules in the Core Area surround Alta Bates Medical Center. These problems create challenges for neighborhood residents in the Core Area in regards to parking and congestion.

BACKGROUND

The area around Alta Bates Medical Center (ABMC) has been an area of concern for parking enforcement for many years. Over the years there has been a great deal of neighborhood concern over vehicles parking in the residential neighborhood surrounding the hospital. As a result of a stipulated settlement between the City and ABMC over this issue in 1997, there are certain parking mitigation efforts that ABMC is

required to take as a part of their use permit. These mitigation efforts are designed to reduce the number of vehicles parking in the residential areas around ABMC to a level below the Aggregate Impact Level (AIL) determined by a study contracted by ABMC through an outside consultant. These efforts have included bussing employees into the area, instituting valet parking to maximize parking space in the ABMC parking lots, and discouraging employees from moving their vehicles in the RPP area. ABMC has been a willing partner in these mitigation efforts. The final report from the consultant found that the AIL in the area surrounding ABMC had been exceeded for three years in a row and suggested several possible remedies, including increased Parking Enforcement Staffing. This was attempted and found to be ineffective and an inefficient use of staff, as it did not effectively address the RPP violations. Another study recommendation was the use of License Plate Reading (LPR) technology to increase efficiency.

LPR equipment is a system of camera and computer equipment mounted on a vehicle which scans and reads license plates as the vehicle is moving. It identifies vehicles parked in excess of time limits and can be compared to existing lists of stolen vehicles, parking scofflaws or other suspicious vehicle data in real time, thereby, reducing the time needed to patrol a specific area. The reduction in time allows the parking enforcement officer to conduct more frequent trips through the area surrounding the ABMC which, we know from past experience, the increased presence of the enforcement vehicles will discourage re-parking in the patrolled RPP area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley and the Medical Center have agreed that if monitoring were conducted in 2010 it would likely result in findings of nonconformance with the use permit. Both parties have an interest in successfully resolving the issues surrounding this nonconformance. An LPR system would be an effective tool for RPP enforcement. Additionally, the City is interested in utilizing LPR technology on a trial basis to determine its potential for citywide application in crime reduction strategies such as those addressing auto thefts.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Erik Upson, Lieutenant, 981-5983

Lynne Ohlson, Public Safety Business Manager, 981-5976

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF ONE ELSAG PARKING ENFORCEMENT LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM FOR PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN THE VICINITY OF ALTA BATES MEDICAL CENTER

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods surrounding Alta Bates Medical Center continue to contend with parking congestion associated with the medical center; and

WHEREAS, the City and Alta Bates Medical Center are dedicated to addressing these parking issues and conformance with the use permit; and

WHEREAS, attempts to address this through other mitigation efforts, including increased parking enforcement staffing have not satisfactorily resolved these parking issues; and

WHEREAS, License Plate Reader technology for parking enforcement could increase efficiency and effectiveness of parking enforcement in the neighborhoods surrounding Alta Bates Medical Center, especially in terms of residential parking violations; and

WHEREAS, funding for purchasing the License Plate Reader system will be provided by Alta Bates Medical Center.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to accept the donation of one ELSAG Parking Enforcement Plate Scanning system by Alta Bates Medical Center valued at about \$49,000.

