


**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Date: September 26, 2008

To: Honorable City Council  
c/o City Clerk, Room 395 City Hall  
Attention: Honorable Wendy Greuel, Chair of Transportation Committee

From: *for* Rita L. Robinson, General Manager   
Department of Transportation

Subject: **REVIEW OF PARKING CITATIONS ISSUED TO TAXICABS IN  
RESIDENTIAL AREAS - CF-07-3326**

**SUMMARY**

Council Motion CF 07-3326 (Hahn-Rosendahl) requested that the City Attorney work with Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to prepare and present an ordinance to amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 80.69.2 to exempt taxis from parking in residential areas. LADOT has investigated this request and has reviewed the extent and nature of tickets issued to taxis in recent years. This report, with attachments, presents a tally and comparison of all parking tickets issued to taxis from January 2005 to January 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That this report be RECEIVED AND FILED, as it is submitted for informational purposes only and no further action is required.

**DISCUSSION**

Citation Statistics

Staff reviewed all of the parking tickets issued by LADOT Traffic Officers to Los Angeles' permitted taxicabs in the three-year period from January 2005 to January 2008. Some of the vehicles did not have a three year active period (placed into service after January 2005); so the average review period was actually 2.12 years for all 2,239 taxicabs reviewed. A total of 5,319 total tickets, covering all types of parking violations, were issued during the review period equating to 1.12 tickets issued per cab, per year. Of the 5,319 total tickets

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issued, 705 or 13.3% were issued for parking a commercial vehicle (taxicab) in a residential area (see Attachment A).

Staff analyzed the 705 tickets issued for parking a commercial vehicle in a residential area during the three-year period. These tickets were distributed among 455 different taxicabs (20% of the fleet). Of the 455 vehicles receiving a parking citation for this violation, 308 (68%) had only one ticket issued during the three-year review period. Ninety-three vehicles had two tickets, 33 vehicles had three tickets, eight vehicles had four tickets, eight vehicles had five tickets, two vehicles had six tickets each, one vehicle had seven tickets, one had eight tickets, and one had 13 tickets; 1,784(80%) of the 2,239 taxicabs reviewed did not receive any residential parking citations (see Attachment B). The total number of tickets for parking taxicabs in residential areas equates to 0.15 tickets to each cab per year when reviewing the entire 2,239 fleet and approximately 0.73 tickets per year when reviewing the 455 cabs that did receive such parking tickets.

About 53 vehicle owners received three or more residential tickets during the review period. This represents a very small percentage (2.34%) of total taxi vehicle operators.

#### LAMC Section 80.69.2

The LAMC Section pertaining to parking commercial vehicles in residential areas is 80692 (Section 80.69.2), which states:

#### SEC. 80.69.2. PARKING - COMMERCIAL VEHICLES. (Amended by Ord. No. 168,782, Eff. 7/12/93.)

No person shall park or leave standing any commercial vehicle or any other vehicle exceeding 22 feet in length as measured from bumper to bumper, other than a house car, on any public street where a majority of the buildings situated on the property contiguous thereto is used for residential purposes, whether as single-family dwellings or as multi-family dwellings, nor shall any person park or leave standing any commercial vehicle for more than three (3) hours on any other public street, except that any vehicle regulated herein may park notwithstanding such prohibition or in excess of such time limitation:

- (1) While loading or unloading property, and additional time is necessary to complete such work; or
- (2) When such vehicle is parked in connection with, and in aid of, the performance of a service to or on a property in the block in which such vehicle is parked, and additional time is necessary and reasonable to complete such service.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to trailers and semitrailers regulated by the provisions of Section 80.69.1 of this Code. As used in this section, the term "commercial vehicle" shall mean:

- (1) a truck tractor; or
- (2) a motor vehicle with commercial license plate; and
- (A) exceeding 22 feet total length including bumpers, or
- (B) 22 feet or less in length with the name of a business enterprise or establishment or a sign advertising a product or service painted, attached, or otherwise affixed on or to the exterior thereof.

#### Analysis

The data clearly show that there are relatively few citations issued for taxis parked in residential areas. In addition, the number of drivers for whom such tickets appear to be an ongoing problem is very small.

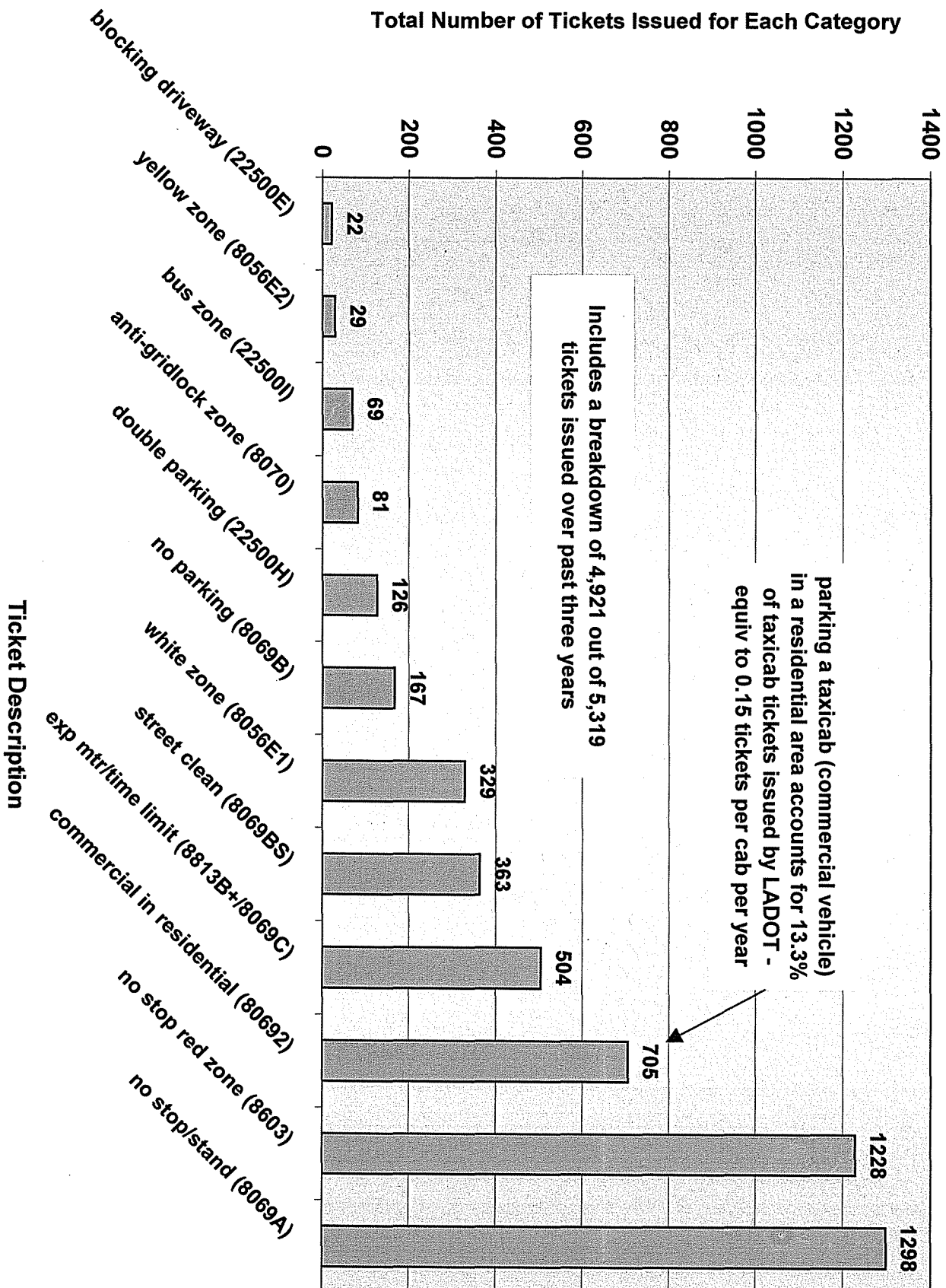
The City Attorney suggests caution in considering requests by a small number of taxi operators for the City to revise the LAMC to exempt taxicabs from restrictions on commercial vehicles parking in residential areas. Taxicabs are, of course, not the only type of commercial vehicles with drivers who might like to park their working vehicles in residential areas beyond the three-hour limit. The statute applies to all manner of other businesses, including delivery services, carpet cleaners, plumbers, building contractors, etc., each of whom could make just as compelling an argument as taxicab operators for an exemption.

At the same time, the restriction has been in place because the City Council determined many years ago that property owners, homeowners, and renters were entitled to expect that commercial vehicles would be restricted from parking for extended hours in residential areas. It appears unlikely that granting exceptions to the commercial vehicle parking restrictions would be well received by local residents and property owners.

Attachments: 2

**Hail-A-Taxi & Residential Related Parking Ticket Figures  
as Issued by LADOT for All Current Cabs from Jan 2005 to Jan 2008**

**Total Number of Tickets Issued for Each Category**



# **Ticket Distribution for Taxicabs Cited for Parking a Commercial Vehicle in a Residential Area** **705 Total Tickets Issued to 455 Different L.A. Taxicabs from Jan 2005 to Jan 2008**

