

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

March 3, 2015

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TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Executive Director, Board of Police Commissioners

SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL VALET PARKING (COUNCIL FILE CF #14-0020)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Request the City Council amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 103.203(b)(1), Valet Parking to allow for the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) to adopt Rules and Regulations relative to non-recurring special events at private residences.
2. That the Board APPROVE the report of the Executive Director and TRANSMIT to the City Council Transportation Committee.

DISCUSSION

On December 10, 2014, the Los Angeles City Council Transportation Committee met to discuss alleviating parking problems caused by residential valet parking. During this meeting the Executive Director of the Board of Police Commissioners advised the committee that Police Commission permits were required for valet services, however non-recurring special events at private residences were exempted by the Valet Parking Ordinance 103.203 (LAMC). The specific issue was valet parking in the neighborhood of Holmby Hills.

Section 103.203(b)(1) of the Los Angeles Municipal code states “ no permit shall be required under this section if the Valet Parking Operator is providing services for a non-recurring special event at a private residence. The section however does not define “non-recurring.”

During the public comment period at the December 10, 2014, meeting, a resident of Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association (HWPOA) stated that valets take vehicles from events at private residences north of Sunset Boulevard and drive them to his Holmby Hills neighborhood to park them on a regular basis. The valets are then transported via shuttle back to the location of the event.

This problem has occurred due to the Los Angeles Fire Department’s (LAFD) parking restrictions on the narrow roads of Bel-Air. As a result, valet parking operations often move to Holmby Hills for events held in the Bel-Air area.

Commission Investigation Division (CID) was assigned to research this issue. On December 23, 2014, a survey was conducted and two hundred and forty-four questionnaires were sent to

random addresses in the neighborhood affected by this issue. Fifty five people responded to the questionnaire or twenty-two percent. Thirty respondents indicated that valet parking was a serious concern for their community. Twenty-five stated it was not. Of the thirty people who responded, more than half said this issue affects their neighborhood every week to every other week.

Some of the concerns expressed include vehicle code violations for speeding and failing to stop at posted signs, noise complaints, public urination and littering.

Those surveyed provided a number of solutions that included changing the ordinance to enforce residential valet parking, changing the parking restrictions on the streets so that only residents and permitted persons can park on the street and forcing valet companies to park the vehicles in commercial parking lot.

Commission staff also attended a HWPOA meeting on January 13, 2015, many of the same suggestions were brought forward. One included having the LAFD relax the restrictions on parking for the narrow roads in and out of Bel-Air. LAFD Captain Luke Milick, Commander, Hydrant and Access Unit, LAFD, was contacted for input relative to that suggestion. Captain Milick provided a copy of the LAFD Operations Manual, Section 6.20 titled "Response Narrow Streets". The section states "on narrow streets, if the traveled roadway width is less than 18', no parking on both sides of the street. If the traveled roadway width is 18' to 25', than no parking on one side of the roadway. If the traveled roadway width is over 25' than no restrictions unless there is a need to paint the curbs red on a sharp turn or at intersections". LAFD Assistant Chief Kwame Cooper also stated that the Fire Department does not support the relaxing of parking restrictions due to the fire conditions in the area and the need for the Department to be able to maneuver emergency equipment on the narrow roads. Commission staff defers to the expertise of LAFD personnel and does not support the removal of the parking restrictions as a solution to this issue.

It is the opinion of Commission Staff that the concerns raised in the City Council motion and by the HWPOA could be alleviated by one of the two options listed below:

Option 1

Amend LAMC Section 103.203(b)(1) to authorize the BOPC to adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations for non-recurring special events at private residences which will protect the peace, health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

Option 2

Amend LAMC Section 103.203(b)(1) to include:

1. Eliminate the exemption for non-recurring special events at private residences. Require a one day Valet Parking Police Commission Permit for non-recurring special events at private residences at least 30 days prior to the event by the person or persons responsible for the event.

2. Require all valet parking companies providing services at non-recurring special events at private residences to obtain a Master Valet Parking Permit.
3. Provide at the time of application the location where valet vehicles will be parked, along with a written agreement from the parking lot operator or owner who has a valid Auto Park Police Commission permit.
4. At the time of application provide a route map indicating the route valet attendants will utilize to shuttle vehicle between the event and parking lot.
5. Provide proof of notification to the residence and neighbors within a 500 foot radius of the event at time of the permit application.

Commission Staff is recommending that the Council adopt Option 1. Option 1 would afford the BOPC and community the opportunity to tailor specific solutions that mitigate issues affecting individual communities without overburdening other communities that are not experiencing similar problems. Option 2 is single approach to all non-recurring special events at private residences and could become burdensome to residents in communities that are not facing similar issues as those described at the Transportation Committee meeting and public comments.

Attached for your information is a Fact Sheet which more thoroughly discusses the issue and additional attachments that provide examples of the parking conditions.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact me at (213) 236-1400, or Lieutenant Chris Waters, Commanding Officer, CID, at (213) 996-1230.

Very truly yours,


RICHARD M. TEFANK, Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Approved *March 10, 2015*
[Signature]

Attachments