

14-1303

TRANSPORTATION

MOTION

The recent development of new "predatory" parking apps, which allow mobile phone users to squat on public parking spaces and auction them off to the highest bidder, threatens to further reduce the availability of street parking in many Los Angeles neighborhoods that already suffer from too few parking options. Already these mobile apps have been used in other cities to sell off valuable public parking spaces in the private marketplace, and by rogue companies that hire "spotters" to drive around parking-impacted areas, occupy prime parking spaces, and sell them.

The City of San Francisco, where these startup companies began the launch of their mobile parking apps, is fighting back. The San Francisco Police Code specifically prohibits the buying and selling of public street parking spaces. This allowed the city to issue cease and desist letters to offending software companies, arguing that the apps created "a predatory private market for parking spaces" and encouraged drivers to pay attention to bidding wars taking place on their phones instead of keeping their eyes on the the road. Since the letters were issued, all predatory parking app companies have halted operations in San Francisco.

Recently, MonkeyParking, one of the predatory parking app companies, has announced plans for a relaunch in the City of Santa Monica and the City of Beverly Hills, with further plans to expand to other parts of Los Angeles County.

Over the past several years, the City of Los Angeles has spent millions of dollars on new technology, particularly through the installation of smart parking meters, to expand access to and construct a demand based pricing system for on-street parking. The use of predatory parking apps that auction public parking spaces undermines the work the City has done to create a more equitable parking system for all users, and acts to further reduce the availability of parking spaces in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles. The City should not allow private individuals to profit from selling off on-street public parking spaces, and should act now to protect Angelenos from this predatory practice.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to expressly prohibit the buying and selling of public parking spaces in the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY   
MIKE BONIN

*Councilmember, 11th District*

SECONDED BY 

  
SEP 24 2014

ORIGINAL