

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *Sharon M. Tso*
Chief Legislative Analyst

May 17, 2018

Assignment No.18-02-0120
Council File No.18-0002-S2

SUBJECT: Resolution to SUPPORT Legislation for California Disabled Placard Reform

CLA Recommendation: Adopt Resolution (Bonin-Ryu-Huizar) to include in the City's 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action to limit the type of placard certifier professions, implement a two-tiered pricing system, increase the number of blue zones and accessible spaces and install accessible meters in blue zones.

SUMMARY:

On January 10, 2018, the Resolution (Bonin-Ryu-Huizar) was introduced stating the following:

- Parking can be a challenge in Los Angeles, but it is particularly challenging for people with disabilities;
- California's current disabled parking placard program and accessible parking policies are not only failing to increase access for people with disabilities, the current policies and practices reduce available parking for all drivers by providing incentives to abuse disabled parking placards;
- During its nine months of work, the Los Angeles Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee reviewed many approaches to address the problems identified, drawing on best practices and case studies across North America, as well as parking policy research;
- The Committee arrived at a package of policy recommendations to increase access to street parking for drivers with disabilities and reduce parking placard misuse; and
- The recommendations include directives for both city and state policy, and operational changes, implying a multi-level implementation.

BACKGROUND:

On August 16, 2017, the Department of Transportation (DOT) submitted a communication that recommends that the Council endorse the Los Angeles Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee report as a programmatic guide to increase access to street parking for drivers with disabilities and reduce parking placard misuses.

A California driver with a valid disabled placard may park for free at a parking meter for any length of time. These benefits, intended to recognize and accommodate the specific challenges for people with mobility impairments, have unintentionally resulted in widespread misuse, a frequent shortage of parking spaces for people with disabilities, reduced parking turnover, and increased congestion from drivers looking for parking. To address these concerns, in 2016, Mayor Garcetti formed a 14-member Los Angeles Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee. The

Committee included disability rights advocates, transportation experts, and other stakeholder representatives from neighborhood businesses and academic institutions.

The Committee found that no single policy could successfully create parking access for people with disabilities, and that a multifaceted approach would best address the nature of problems identified. For instance, it became clear that no city had successfully increased access and reduced placard misuse using enforcement or citation tactics alone. The Committee developed the following recommendations that include directives for both city and state policy and operation changes:

1. Develop a marketing campaign focused on implications of misusing placards.
2. Clarify placard certifiers.
3. Implement a two-tiered pricing system.
4. Lengthen time limits at blue zones.
5. Direct revenue from the two-tier system to be used for accessibility improvements.
6. Increase the number of blue zones to at least four percent of metered spaces.
7. Increase the number of accessible spaces in off-street facilities.
8. Create/install accessible parking meters and/or other accessible technology payment options.
9. Increase the citation amount for accessible parking violations.
10. Improve on-street enforcement.

On November 7, 2017, the Council endorsed the DOT report and the ten recommendations.



Darrell Powell
Analyst

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, parking can be a challenge in Los Angeles, as in many cities, but it is particularly challenging for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, California's current disabled parking placard program and accessible parking policies are not only failing to increase access for people with disabilities, the current policies and practices reduce available parking for all drivers by providing incentives to abuse disabled parking placards; and

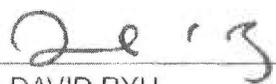
WHEREAS, during its nine months of work, the Los Angeles Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee reviewed many approaches to address the problems identified, drawing on best practices and case studies across North America, as well as parking policy research; and

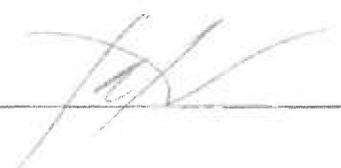
WHEREAS, the Committee arrived at a package of policy recommendations to increase access to street parking for disabled drivers and reduce parking placard misuse; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations include directives for both city and state policy and operational changes, implying a multi-level implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action to: limit the type of placard certifier professions; implement a two-tiered pricing system; increase the number of blue zones and accessible spaces; and install accessible meters in blue zones, when metered.

PRESENTED BY: 
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District


DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 

JAN 10 2018



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