

DATE ISSUED: September 28, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-215

ATTENTION: Rules, Finance and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Docket for September 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Fees for the Installation of Blue Disabled Zones on Public Streets

REFERENCE: Manager's Report 04-107 dated May 14, 2004

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUCIL.

BACKGROUND

On June 28, 2004 the City of San Diego Council considered the issue of approving the establishment of new rates, fees, and adjustments to existing rates and fees for inclusion in the Rate Book of City fees and charges. The City Council approved a number of new and revised fees. The Resolution included new fees of \$275 for the installation of various colored curbs, Red zones for driveway and fire hydrant clearance, Yellow, White, Green zones, and Blue Disabled Parking Zones in residential areas. These parking zones are installed at the request of a private property or business owner. While the zone is not for the exclusive use of the resident or business fronting the zone, there are substantial benefits for residents and businesses from having such parking zones adjacent to their property. The cost of the fee is to cover only the administrative and labor cost for the installation of the parking zone and the city absorbs the cost of maintaining and removing the zone. Blue curbs and special signage is operative 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It has been the City's policy to install blue zones in residential areas where there is a demonstrated need due to a lack of adequate off street parking for a disabled resident.

The policy is to install disabled parking zones at a resident's request if they meet the criteria in Council Policy 500-08 as follows:

- Applicant is in possession of the appropriate license plate or placard.
- On-street location provides superior access to applicant's residence than other off street alternatives.
- Applicant understands that the blue zone will be available to all qualifying members of the public, and does not constitute reserved individual parking.
- Applicant pays one-time fee.

DISCUSSION

There have been some requests from the public for exemptions from paying the required fee due to economic hardship. In response to those requests, staff evaluated other alternatives for payment of the fee such as funding from existing grant programs, charitable donations, and alternative methods for payment.

In coordination with the City Treasurer, staff developed a payment plan for low income individuals whereby requestors for this service can pay \$27.50 over a 10 month period in order to minimize the financial impact. Since the inception of this plan at the end of August 2004, one individual has utilized this program. There have been approximately 25 inquiries about this new payment program. The program consists of a simple application that allows the customer to be self certified, based on the Housing Commission income standards.

The Director of the Office of Major Gifts and Planned Giving has agreed to share this need with potential donors. Although this is not a guaranteed source of funding, staff will maintain contact with this office for potential sources of funding.

In addition, the City could allocate CDBG funds for the installation of Blue Disabled Zones for individuals citywide. Over the past three years, there has been an average of 660 requests for the installation of Blue Disabled Zones in the City. However, there are no CDBG funds currently available for allocation in FY 05.

Respectfully Submitted,

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MENDES/DVW