

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members
Public Safety Committee

FROM: Dorinda R. Floyd
DPW-Administrative Services Director

DATE: June 27, 2006

RE: Ordinance relating to parking of vehicles for more than 24 hours

The Department of Public Works Parking Operations has serious concerns regarding the proposed ordinance to allow vehicles to park in one place for up to 5 consecutive days. Although the ordinance is proposed to be a pilot program in a designated area on the east side of Milwaukee, we are opposed to its implementation for several reasons.

The current 24-hour rule provides for enhanced detection of abandoned and stolen vehicles as well as provides for more efficient and effective snow plowing operations. On an annual basis, approximately 20,000 citations are issued for this violation. The cost of the citation is \$30.

The process to enforce the 24-hour rule usually begins with a complaint that a vehicle hasn't moved for a period of time. A Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) responds by placarding the vehicle (notification that the vehicle must be moved within 72 hours). After 24 hours, the PEO revisits the vehicle and if the vehicle hasn't moved it is cited for violating the 24-hour rule. After 72 hours if the vehicle has not moved, the PEO makes a request to tow the vehicle. The tow contractor has 12 hours to tow the vehicle after notification. Under this scenario, the response time for enforcement is a minimum of 1 day to issue a citation and at least 3 days to tow the vehicle. This does not include the number of days the vehicle may have not moved prior to the complaint being made.

Under the proposed ordinance, a vehicle could be parked for a minimum of 5 days. If a complaint is received during the 5-day time period or after the 5 days has expired, the process above would still be followed but the response time for enforcement would increase from a minimum of 5 days to at least 10 days, more than a three-fold increase in response time. In addition, although the ordinance does not apply from December 1 to

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March 1, snow does fall before December 1 and after March 1. Consequently the ordinance will make it more difficult to efficiently and effectively plow the streets during these time periods as vehicles will not be required to move for 5 days.

On-street parking is intended to serve short-term parking needs as is reflective of the 24-hour rule and other parking restrictions, such as time-restricted parking. Long-term parking is more appropriately for off-street parking, thereby providing more on-street parking for short-term parking needs. In many areas of the City, including the east side, the demand for on-street parking far exceeds the supply. The proposed ordinance would exacerbate this problem. Lastly, the public policy goal of detecting abandoned vehicles and maximizing on-street parking outweighs the goal of encouraging transportation alternatives by allowing long-term on-street parking. Transportation alternatives can be encouraged more effectively without changing the 24-hour rule.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond. If you have any questions, please contact me at extension 5582