



Department of Public Works

**Mariano A. Schifalacqua**  
Commissioner of Public Works

**James P. Purko**  
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works

April 8, 2002

Honorable Members  
Milwaukee Common Council  
Public Safety Committee  
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Committee Members:

On Thursday, April 11, 2002 the Public Safety Committee is scheduled to hear Common Council File No. 011734, a substitute ordinance relating to the sale of night parking permits. The ordinance expands the locations where night parking permits are sold to include fire department stations, public library facilities, public works sanitation district facilities, and private facilities under city contract. Currently, the police district stations are the only facilities that sell night parking permits. Although the Department of Public Works agrees with the intent of the legislation, we have serious concerns regarding its implementation.

As you know, night parking permits are sold at seven police district stations. These facilities are open and staffed 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The district stations have clerks that staff the front desks and cashiering, cash handling, and security systems in place. The districts are also capable of answering questions regarding the night parking permit application process and night parking regulations in the City, particularly winter regulations and two-sided parking.

The fire department stations and public works sanitation district facilities do not have cashiering systems, cash handling procedures or security systems in place nor do they have staff to manage the sale of night parking permits. Although these are public facilities, they are not as accessible to the public as police district stations. These departments are seriously concerned about their ability to provide this service in a cost efficient and effective way.

Public libraries do have cashiering systems although they handle only a small amount of cash from late fines. Consequently current cash handling procedures and security systems may not be adequate to handle the number of transactions that may occur in some libraries. In addition, the front desks are staffed with high school students who would need to be frequently trained on the night parking permit application process due to high turnover.

The department has asked the City's citation processing contractor to explore selling night parking permits through other vendors. Discussions have taken place, but transaction fees may be cost prohibitive. We will continue to explore this option, however.

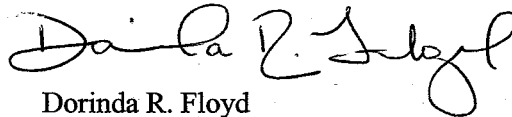
The Department of Public Works is exploring other options to sell night parking permits as well as to collect citation payments. The department is focusing on alternatives that are cost

Honorable Members  
Public Safety Committee  
April 8, 2002  
Page 2

efficient, available 24/7, and convenient with no or low transaction costs. Technology may be available to process these transactions in a "labor-free" environment whereby the applicant or payer conducts the transaction without a third party. The department has had numerous discussions with vendors to explore these alternatives and is hopeful a resolution can be found in the near future.

The Committee may wish to make a policy statement directing the Department of Public Works to explore options to sell night parking permits rather than expanding the locations to include other City departments. Consequently the department can focus its energies on exploring these new technologies which would be more cost efficient and effective in the long run.

Sincerely,



Dorinda R. Floyd  
Administrative Services Director

Cc: Alderman Paul Henningsen  
Kathleen Huston  
Richard McDonnell  
Andrew Smerz