City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

MARCH 14, 2019

TO:

THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER

FROM:

YON LAMBERT, AICP, DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION &

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL PAY BY PHONE PARKING

This memorandum is in response to questions by members of City Council on the Pay by Phone Parking Program.

Q: What type of pay stations is the City currently using and what type would be used if pay stations were installed on residential pay by phone blocks?

A: The City currently has pay and display pay stations (issues receipt to display on dashboard) in Old Town and newer pay by plate pay stations (license plate is used at the pay station and no receipt is required to be displayed) in Carlyle. When the existing pay stations in Old Town are due for replacement in FY 2023, the City will consider replacing them with pay by plate models. If pay stations were installed on residential pay by phone blocks, either model could be used. Pay by plate pay stations could be configured to accept payment for vehicles on any residential pay by phone block and Parking Enforcement would be able to enforce the specific restrictions posted on each block.

Q: What is the process for adding meters?

A: Section 5-8-92 of the City Code requires all new meters on public streets to be reviewed by the Traffic and Parking Board at a public hearing. If a meter were to be installed on private property, such as a church parking lot, staff would need to coordinate with the City's Historic Preservation staff on an appropriate location for the meter.

Q: Can Residential Pay by Phone be incorporated into the RPP Refresh Project?

A: The goal of RPP Refresh project is to assess the older RPP code that has not been updated for years or decades to identify opportunities for improvement or modernization. Because the Residential Pay by Phone program and associated code are relatively new, they were being addressed separately. There are several issues we have identified with the community as priorities to address with RPP Refresh. Those include a staff-initiated parking restriction modification process, posted restrictions and time limits, permit fees

and limits, and the resident-initiated petition process. Staff believe that incorporating the Residential Pay by Phone program could cause complications and delays in moving both programs forward. We would like to have initial RPP Refresh recommendations to present to Council by the end of this summer.

Q: What would the fiscal impact be of installing pay stations on residential pay by phone blocks?

A: Each pay station costs about \$5,500 to purchase and install. As noted in the docket memo, residential pay by phone blocks in the pilot program generated an average of \$8,200 per year and approximately \$4,000 more in citations per year than other RPP blocks. There may be behavioral changes from users of the program as a result of additional pay stations that could result in changes to the overall revenue. For example, more non-residents may choose to park on the blocks, resulting in more revenue, or fewer residential blocks may petition to implement the program, resulting in decreased revenue. Additionally, the City pays credit card fees associated with pay stations whereas the customer pays fees associated with ParkMobile. Overall, staff expect the cost of purchasing and installing a pay station would be covered by revenues of the program in under a year but cautions that the addition of a meter may have other impacts on the success of the program from a parking management perspective.

Q: If the program was approved to be permanent for the current program boundary, could it be expanded in the future?

A: Since the program boundary would be specifically referenced in the City Code, an expansion of this program to other parts of the City would require an amendment to the City Code to remove or modify that boundary.

Q: Why are the time restrictions different on different RPP blocks? What are the variations in restrictions?

A: Per Sec. 5-8-73 of City Code, residential permit parking restrictions are implemented through a resident initiated petition process, and residents may choose the desired time limits on their blocks from the following options:

- Three (or Two) Hour Parking
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or to 9 p.m., 11 p.m. or 2:00 a.m. of the following day) Monday through Friday (or through Saturday)
- 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. (or to 2:00 a.m. of the following day) Sunday

There are 32 different resulting combinations for end times and days. The posted restrictions are being considered as part of the RPP Refresh project. Maps of the RPP time restrictions implemented in each RPP district are shown in Attachment 1.

Q: What happens if City Council does not approve some version of this ordinance? A: If City Council does not approve some version of the ordinance, the provisions for the pay by phone pilot program would expire and the area would go back to a regular residential permit parking district with no charge for parking. T&ES would remove the

pay by phone signs and reinstall the residential permit parking signs that were there previously.

Attachment 1: Residential Permit Parking Restriction Maps

Attachment 1





















