



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT PLANNING, RESEARCH & AUDIT SECTION

March 16, 2009

To: Drazen Manojlovic, Director
Planning, Research & Audit Section

From: Correen Yedon, Planning & Policy Analyst
Planning, Research & Audit Section

Subject: *Civilian Parking*

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, a meeting was called as per Deputy Chief Constable Bob Rolls. He requested that Inspector Bob Usui, Facilities Inspector, meet with Director Drazen Manojlovic and all Planning, Research & Audit civilian staff to discuss daily parking concerns expressed by non-exempt civilian employees working at 2120 Cambie Street Office. Recent changes in the immediate area, such as construction, signage limitations and new developments, have exacerbated the parking concerns.

Current Situation

Civilians can pay for private parking starting at \$12 a day which would equate to over \$200 per month if used on a regular basis. Considering leaves and holidays, this cost is still well beyond \$2,000 a year from taxed income.

The other option is to park on to the street in non-restricted parking areas. The area around 2120 has non-restricted, restricted and metered parking. As repeat metering is not allowed, civilians are not allowed to 'plug the meter' all day. Civilians are often forced to park in restricted areas, thereby incurring the cost of parking tickets. This has unfortunately become a severe cost for some employees. Many are forced to come in very early for shifts in an attempt to find non-restricted parking, which most times is still several blocks away and necessitates lengthy walks to and from the police building.

With the Olympic Village and the Canada Line nearing completion, obtaining all-day non-restricted parking spots around the Vancouver Police Department is becoming more and more problematic. Canada Line advises that they will be up and running by November 2009 and with the influx of residents moving into the Olympic Village, both developments will bring a profuse amount of vehicles into this area thereby further exacerbating the problem. Although taking public transit may be argued as a solution to the parking situation, this is not a viable alternative for many, if not, most 2120 non-exempt civilian employees. Many of these employees reside in communities on the outskirts of the Lower Mainland and others still do not live near a transit line/route or

face multiple transfers in order to get to work. Accordingly, despite the current lack of parking, at this time driving to work is considered the only viable option as many civilian employees face upwards of 2 hours each way to get to and from work using public transit.

Further, although 14 civilian employees have been provided parking at the 19(1) Lot (cost noted below), constant occurrences of theft from autos, drinking, drugs, copulation, rats, and homeless people sleeping in parking spots have made this lot unsafe. The location is also cost prohibitive given the actuality of numerous comprehensive vehicle insurance claims. Also, with the expected increase of vehicles coming to the area, it does not appear that 14 spots will be insufficient to accommodate additional civilian vehicles.

Given the lack of parking options currently presented to civilian employees, Inspector Usui requested that I look into other possible parking areas/methods as an alternative. On Friday, March 13th, I made enquires into the following, see *Table 1*:

Table 1: Alternative Parking Options

Lot	Cost	Contact Information
Moberly	\$80 month unsecured parking \$85 month secured parking	Ms. Nicola O'Hanlon Easy Park 604-682-6744
Canadian Tire Best Buy	Monthly parking not available \$30 a day to park	Impark - Lot #1693 1-877-909-6199
Plaza 500 Hotel	Monthly parking not available	Impark - Lot #1693 1-877-909-6199
Cambie/16th	\$120 a month from 7:30 AM too 10:00 PM If you start earlier than 7:30, you have to pay for the additional time	Impark - Lot #1693 1-877-909-6199
The Rise Home Depot Save On Winners	\$250 monthly parking	Vinci Parking 604-684-6634
4th/Columbia	\$155 monthly parking Currently a waiting list	Vinci Parking 604-684-6634
4th/Alberta	\$155 monthly parking Currently a waiting list	Vinci Parking 604-684-6634
City Square	\$150 month for non-COV employees \$95 month for COV employees (must fill out an application)	Norell 604-876-5165
Canada Line	Once the Olympics are over, in April 2010, the City will install roughly 300 parking spots and will have Easy Park run this lot. Although the cost is not known at this time, neither will be the number of stalls, if any, assigned to the VPD.	Brian Sears Real Estate Services 604-873-7433

Currently, employees working at Vancouver City Hall and members of the Vancouver Police Union, Vancouver Police Officers' Association and Exempt staff are all provided parking at no cost. More specifically, members of the Vancouver Police Union park at [19(1)] and members who fall under the Vancouver Police Officers' Association as well as Exempt staff [19(1)] City Hall employees are provided 365 free parking stalls¹ at (first come first serve):

[19] [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Civilian employees who are in need of parking near the offices of 2120 recognize that they are being treated differentially compared to exempt staff and those who fall under the VPU and VPOA, despite working in the same building and for the same employer.

Looking forward, the parking situation and its impacts are becoming more severe due to the tremendous and rapid development in the area.

Options

In addressing this situation, the following criteria appeared to be the key criteria to be considered; costs involved to the employer and employee, feasibility, and equity.

The following three options are available:

1. Taking no Action. The consequences of not addressing this situation will result in exacerbated inequity as it relates to parking, personal costs, and working conditions between civilian and other staff. This will undoubtedly affect morale in civilian staff. A real risk is the loss of experienced personnel, as this situation encourages the exploration of employment opportunities outside of the VPD.
2. Providing Paid Parking. For the employer to provide parking would involve considerable costs as parking in the area starts at \$150 a month. This resolution may not be feasible as the majority of lots currently have a waiting list for monthly parking.
3. Parking Permit. This option would provide exempt parking decals for employees requiring it. This decal would only be valid from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday to Friday's, within a defined radius of 2120 Cambie (to be determined by the employer) and not valid at metered parking spots.

¹ http://citywire.city.vancouver.bc.ca/programs/waytogo/emp/employee-mobility_background.htm

Recommendation

The recommended action based on the criteria above is to act on option #3 for the following reasons:

- a. The employer would save \$5,040 a year in not subsidizing the [REDACTED] (\$30 subsidy for 14 stalls)
- b. Providing an alternative to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is more financially feasible for employees. They would not be paying the \$50 a month per stall contribution and as well, many have had their vehicle broken into costing \$300 for their deductible (one member had her vehicle broken into two times in four days. She had to pay her deductible twice).
- c. Vacating the [REDACTED] lot is safer for employees
- d. The cost of an exempt decal is insignificant
- e. Morale would increase and civilian members would feel like they were being treated fairly and comparable to their colleagues
- f. As the decal does not provide an exemption to metered parking, there is no loss of income to the city.

It is not expected that all 64 civilians will require an exempt parking pass for their vehicle. Some do not have a vehicle, some may continue to car pool in order to share expenses and protect the environment, some are in walking distance to 2120, some bicycle into work, and others will continue to take public transit.

What the recommendation provides for the employer is a solution that involves no cost, is feasible, and resolves the employee morale issue. What this recommendation yields to the employee is a sense of fairness, equality, and respect. It will diminish the consideration of employment elsewhere. It also recovers the taxed income spent on parking.

Respectfully Submitted,

Correen Yedon

	Organizational Unit	First Name	Last Name
-	████████████████████	██████	██████████
-	████████████████████	██████	████
-	████████████████████	████████	██████████
-	████████████████████	████	████████
-	████████████████████	██████████	██████████
-	████████████████████	████	██████████
-	████████████████████	██████████	██████████
-	████████████████████	████████	██████████
-	████████████████████	██████	████████
-	████████████████████	██████████	██████████
-	████████████████████	████	██████████