



## **Staff Report**

---

### DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING PARKING RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS CITY WIDE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

#### **Summary**

For decades, the City of Belmont has limited parking in various neighborhoods through timed parking zones. At various times, staff has researched options for parking that meet the needs of residents, visitors, business owners, and customers. This report summarizes current parking enforcement strategies and offers some new options that can serve as a catalyst for an alternative parking management program. Staff recommends that Council offer options for further research. Staff will return with a follow up report based upon council direction.

#### **Background**

Parking, along with other traffic related issues, continues to be one of the major concerns of the residents of Belmont. We strive to maximize the capacity of existing parking through increased turnover, along with encouraged compliance with the City's parking regulations. Currently, there are two Community Service Officers assigned to the Traffic Unit, one of which is assigned to weekday time zone parking enforcement. Time zone parking enforcement is rotated on a monthly basis between these two Community Service Officers.

The Community Service Officer plays a vital role in ensuring that the available parking is used in the best interest of the community. Parking enforcement activities include enforcement of time zones, regulated delivery zones, as well as abandoned and unregistered vehicles.

The Old County Road/El Camino Real business corridor has been primarily designated as a two-hour or four-hour parking zone, unless otherwise posted. The restricted parking zones are clearly marked by signage within each block or specific location.

There are six designated Parking Enforcement Areas in the City. These supplement the ten designated Traffic Enforcement Areas, which relate to moving violations. The Traffic Enforcement Areas are numbered 1-10 and the Parking Enforcement Areas are designated 11-16 (see attached map). Within the six Parking Enforcement Areas there are 33 time zones.

The majority of the two-hour and four-hour time zones are located in zones 11-14. In Zone 11,

there are five time zones along Old County Road and one on Masonic Way. In Zone 13, there are 17 time zones - five are located along El Camino Real and the other 12 are located between Emmett Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Broadway, Hill Street, and O’Neill Avenue. The ten additional time zones are located in the remaining Parking Enforcement Areas.

In 2009, the Department issued 2,176 parking citations. This included 461 citations for unregistered vehicles. In addition, 554 abandoned vehicles were abated.

### **Discussion**

As noted previously, the goal of parking enforcement is to maximize the capacity of existing parking through increased turnover, while encouraging compliance with the City’s parking regulations. In spite of these efforts, parking issues continue to remain a significant problem for the community. As the general number of physical parking spaces is unlikely to increase, we must maximize the use of available spaces through alternative methods. Examples from nearby cities include, but are not limited to: construction of underground parking, establishment of pay lots, parking meters (either stand-alone units or kiosks) and parking permits. Each of these options has their own specific positive and negative aspects, some of which are outlined below:

- Construction of Underground Parking  
Positive: Reduces congestion on City streets and lessens visual impact  
Negative: Limited availability of needed land, costs associated with construction
- Establishment of Pay Lots  
Positive: Encourage turnover of spaces, maintenance & enforcement self-funded  
Negative: Public perception
- Parking Meters  
Positive: Encourage turnover of spaces, maintenance & enforcement self-funded  
Negative: Installation & maintenance costs, public perception
- Parking Permits  
Positive: Controls amount of vehicles, controls times of use  
Negative: Costs associated with establishment & maintenance of program

### **General Plan/Vision Statement**

Staff will research parking options that are consistent with the General Plan/Vision Statement.

### **Fiscal Impact**

No fiscal impact at this time.

### **Public Contact**

Posting of City Council agenda.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that Council provide direction on options for further research. Staff will return with a follow- up report consistent with council direction.

**Alternatives**

1. Provide direction to staff.
2. Take no action.

**Attachments:**

- A. Belmont Police Parking Enforcement Area Map

Respectfully submitted,

---

Michael Brake  
Police Sergeant

---

Donald Mattei  
Chief of Police

---

Carlos de Melo  
Acting City Manager

**Staff Contact:**

Michael Brake, Sergeant  
(650) 595-7400  
mikeb@belmont.gov

# Attachment A

## Belmont Police Department PARKING ENFORCEMENT AREAS

