

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KIM NADEAU, PARKING MANAGER
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: TEMPORARY WAIVER OF PARKING FEES DURING COVID-19
SHELTER IN PLACE

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Finance Department that the Council, by resolution, authorize, until the COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order is lifted in the City of Santa Rosa, a temporary waiver of: 1) the parking permit fees at the five City owned parking garages and lots retroactive to April 1, 2020; 2) hourly parking fees at the five City owned parking garages effective April 15, 2020; and 3) parking fees at all parking meters effective April 15, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This item proposes waiving parking user fees at the City owned garages, City operated parking lots, and all parking meters while the COVID-19 Shelter in Place remains in effect in the City of Santa Rosa.

BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020, the Sonoma County Public Health Officer announced a Health Order directing all individuals living in the County to shelter in their place of residence through April 7, 2020. On March 31, 2020, a new Health Order was issued extending the shelter in place to May 3, 2020. Non-essential City staff were directed to work from home from March 17, 2020 to April 3, 2020, which has been extended to May 3, 2020.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

Since March 17, 2020 there has been a dramatic decrease in parking demand downtown and a 95% decrease in parking revenue. Parking staff have been part of the shelter in place and the five City-owned garages are closed effective April 3, 2020.

Staff estimates garage parking occupancy had decreased by about 80% prior to the garage closures. Essential workers are continuing to park in the surface lots and on-street, and customers are patronizing restaurants providing to-go food and other essential service providers. Parking maintenance and operations staff are under the shelter in place order.

Given the extreme hardship the shelter in place order is placing on the community and downtown businesses, staff recommends that City Council temporarily waive parking user fees at parking meters and surface lots effective April 15, 2020 for the duration of the shelter in place order and temporarily waive parking permit fees in City garages effective to April 1, 2020 also through the lifting of the order.

FISCAL IMPACT

It is difficult to estimate the fiscal impact of this action on the Parking Fund, as the parking revenue is already significantly reduced due to fewer vehicles parking, gates being lifted at the garages, and non-payment of parking fees due to lack of parking enforcement staff. Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

CONTACT

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