

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
SUBJECT: VETERANS SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES PARKING METER  
EXEMPTION  
STAFF PRESENTER: JANET REISNER,  
SUPERVISING PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING  
AGENDA ACTION: REPORT ITEM

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ISSUE(S)

Shall the Council of the City of Santa Rosa pass an ordinance approving veterans displaying certain special license plates issued by the State of California, to park his or her motor vehicle, weighing not more than 6,000 pounds gross weight, without charge, in a metered parking space, in compliance with CVC 22511.3(a)?

BACKGROUND

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22511.3 (a) states that a veteran displaying special license plates issued under CVC Sections 5101.3 (Pearl Harbor Survivors), 5101.4 (Legion of Valor Recipients), 5101.5 (Former Prisoners of War), 5101.6 (Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients), and 5101.8 (Purple Heart Recipients) may park his or her motor vehicle, weighing not more than 6,000 pounds gross weight, without charge, in a metered parking space.

This section does not exempt a vehicle displaying these special plates from compliance with any other state law or ordinance, including, but not limited to, vehicle height restrictions, zones that prohibit stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles, parking time limitations, street sweeping, restrictions of the parking space to a particular type of vehicle, or the parking of a vehicle that is involved in the operation of a street vending business.

Section 22511.3(4(d)) states the local authority's compliance with subdivision (a) is solely contingent upon the approval of its governing body.

The proposed City ordinance, would allow free parking at metered parking spaces to vehicles displaying one of the above mentioned special plates.

## ANALYSIS

1. The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) estimates there are approximately 9,000 of these special license plates statewide. The DMV does not maintain statistics on the number of specialty license plates issued in each of the cities and counties but according to the California Department of Veteran's Affairs, there is an estimated 1.6% of California's veterans living in Sonoma County. Therefore, the impact on meter revenues would be minor.
2. The ordinance would apply to metered parking spaces only and will not require the City to designate specific parking spaces for such veterans. Furthermore, it does not exempt such veterans from any other posted parking restriction, such as zones that prohibit stopping, parking, standing or parking time limitations.
3. On August 6, 2013, the City of Santa Rosa issued a proclamation that the City be known as a Purple Heart City. This resolution is consistent with that support of the veteran population in Sonoma County.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Department of Economic Development and Housing that Council introduce the proposed ordinance to amend Section 11-24.020 to Santa Rosa City Code, Title 11, Vehicles and Traffic, approving veterans displaying certain special license plates issued by the State of California, to park his or her motor vehicle, weighing not more than 6,000 pounds gross weight, without charge, in a metered parking space in compliance of CVC 22511.3.

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