

TO: City Council for November 7, 2016, Council Meeting
FROM: Mary Steckel, Public Works Department *MS*
Jon Sassaman, Police Chief *JS*
DATE: October 31, 2016
THROUGH: Mark W. Shepard, P.E., City Manager *MWS*
SUBJECT: Council Request - Downtown Parking



Action Requested:

For information only, no action required.

Discussion:

Staff was asked to provide some history on the restrictions for employees and volunteers regarding the downtown free-customer-parking area. This regulation was first established for employees of downtown businesses in the 1970s. In 1982, a change was approved to include in the restriction volunteer workers and persons attending training or educational institutions in the downtown. The policy was most recently reviewed in 2010, prompted by the curtailment of the Police Department's ability to track vehicle license plates, in accordance with requirements of the Municipal Code, because of national Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) requirements.

To efficiently continue to enforce no employee parking in the downtown, the Police Department proposed establishing a time limit on parking. The Downtown Parking Committee (DPC) reviewed options and considered public input over a seven-month period. They also held a public meeting that 20 community members attended, the majority of whom were from downtown businesses and the Downtown Corvallis Association. While there was some disagreement on the time limit concept, and on how long the limit should be, there was no disagreement that employees and others should continue to be prohibited from parking in the downtown free spaces.

The Council also asked about the number of tickets issued in the downtown over the last five years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Tickets</u>
2012	34
2013	37
2014	12
2015	1
2016	2

The significant reduction in tickets issued since 2014 is the result of two factors. One is that beginning in July 2014, Parking Enforcement was required to track down and deliver the ticket to the person responsible, to verify that the person was actually at work at the time of the violation. The other is the shift in focus to enforcement of parking regulations in the Residential Parking Districts in response to the community's desire for more attention in this area. This shift has consumed the Parking Enforcement resources in the last few years.

Budget Impact:

None.