

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING RESIDENT PARKING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:* Boston's resident permit system was last reformed in the 1980s, when the city's population was at a historic low of 563,000. Since 1980, the Boston population has increased by nearly 100,000 residents; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* There is no cap on how many resident parking permits the City gives out, despite the limited number of available parking spaces, and no fee; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* In the last ten years alone, the number of permits has increased by 25%; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* More than 300 households in Boston have five or more cars registered to them; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* The current system to establish resident parking zones requires residents to self-organize and collect signatures from at least 51% of adult residents who live on the affected streets. Through this system, neighborhoods with resources and time have an advantage, which only perpetuates systemic inequities; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* More than half of households without vehicles have annual incomes less than \$25,000. Only 7% of zero-vehicle households make over \$100,000; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* The surrounding cities of Cambridge and Somerville charge an annual fee for on-street parking permits; *and,*
- WHEREAS:* The current system is ineffective at managing curbside space in a manner that is fair and accessible to all who need to park on-street overnight; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*
- ORDERED:* That the City of Boston Code, Ordinances be amended in Chapter VI by adding after Section 6-6 the following:

6-7. Resident Parking Permit Fees

6-7.1. Resident Parking Zones

Within 12 months, the parking clerk shall complete an analysis of the number of parking spaces available in resident parking zones to inform updates to the resident parking program, including a comparison of how many spaces are available relative to how many permits are issued.

Within 12 months, the parking clerk shall also complete an analysis of areas of the city not currently covered by the resident parking program to inform potential expansion of resident parking zones, including an assessment of whether resident parking zones should be proactively determined by the city, rather than as an opt-in program.

Said analyses shall be submitted to the Mayor and the City Council.

6-7.2. Resident Parking Permit

a. Non-transferability. Resident parking permits issued by the Boston Parking clerk are intended only for the personal use of the persons to whom they are issued. No person shall sell, offer for sale, give, trade or otherwise transfer his or her resident parking permit to another person or affix such permit to a motor vehicle not his own, or alter such permit. Any person who violates this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not more than three hundred dollars for each offense.

b. Eligibility. The parking clerk shall issue regulations to ensure only residents of resident parking zones are eligible to receive a resident parking permit and any other regulations needed to administer this program in compliance with this ordinance.

c. Fees. The first resident parking permit issued to a household shall be at a cost of 25 dollars per year. Each additional resident parking permit shall cost an additional 25 dollars more per vehicle than the previous vehicle registered to that household.

d. Exemptions. The parking clerk shall issue regulations exempting the following applicants from resident parking permit fees: seniors; low-income residents receiving means-tested benefits; home healthcare aides who are visiting patients; Boston Public Schools staff visiting students; and other groups as needed.

6-7.3. Visitor Parking Permits

a. The parking clerk shall issue regulations creating visitor parking permits for resident households regardless of whether that household has been issued a resident parking permit. Visitor parking permits shall only be used for the personal use of guests who are actually visiting the resident household to which the permit was issued. A vehicle with a visitor parking permit cannot be parked without moving for more than twenty-four (24) hours in a resident parking permit zone. Visitor parking permits shall be issued at a cost of \$10/visit and shall be valid for 72 hours.

6-7.4. Reports to City Council

The Parking Clerk shall submit yearly reports, which shall include, but not be limited to:

- i. The number of permits, both residential and visitor, issued by neighborhood;
- ii. The number of cars registered per household;

- iii. The number of visitor permits issued per household;
- iv. The total amount collected in parking permit fees per permit type; and
- v. Information on how money collected through parking permit fees has been allocated through the City budget.

Said reports shall be submitted to the Mayor and the City Council. The City shall post each report on its website.

6-7.5. Severability

In the event any provision of this Chapter shall be held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provisions hereof.

Effective Date. Section 6.7-1 shall take effect immediately upon passage. Section 6.7-2 through 6.7-5 shall take effect 12 months after passage.

Filed on: April 24, 2019