



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
January 16, 2013**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Philip Vince, City Manager
SUBJECT: Juror Parking
DATE: January 9, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt resolution terminating the practice of allowing free juror parking in metered parking spaces effective no later than May 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

In conjunction with the construction of the Family Law Center in 1999, the City implemented several parking improvements downtown that primarily benefitted the jurors. The City installed long term parking meters outside the parking district, in the vicinity of the Courts and County offices at a cost of \$150,000 from the General Fund. The City paved parking lots along Joe DiMaggio Drive and installed directional signage at a cost of \$30,000. Lastly, the City and the Contra Costa Transportation Agency (CCTA) jointly funded a shuttle bus between the Joe DiMaggio Drive lots and the Courts/County facilities at a cost of \$220,000 per year. The shuttle service was terminated in 2003/04 due to the completion of construction of the Family Law Center and low use of the outlying lots.

DISCUSSION

The Police Chief and City Manager met with the Honorable Barry Goode, Presiding Judge, California's Superior Court in Contra Costa County, and Kiri Torre, Chief Executive Officer, California's Superior Court, regarding changes in court scheduling that will impact Martinez. Court staff indicated it anticipates an increase in demand for juror parking in Martinez as of mid-January 2013 as a direct result of the closure of various court systems in Concord and Walnut Creek that are migrating to Martinez. Due to the relocation out of the downtown of other County services within the vicinity of the courts, City staff believes there will be adequate street parking available.

Eliminating free passes to jurors was also a topic of discussion. Juror parking is allowed in metered spaces on Ward, Green, Mellus, Castro and portions of Pine and Marina Vista without the necessity of depositing coins in parking meters. Jurors currently display a Court-issued parking pass; however, no agreements or ordinances are in place allowing for free juror parking.

Court staff acknowledged that other communities do not allow free juror parking in metered areas, and was receptive to terminating the practice. Court staff have requested the City formally adopt a resolution memorializing the action. That resolution is attached to this staff report.

On a separate but related topic, City staff will be evaluating the practice of City-issued parking passes and designated parking locations for residential parking passes issued to downtown residents. Recommendations regarding these issues will be brought forward to Council at a later date this year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The impact of terminating free parking, combined with the influx of additional jurors migrating from the Concord and Walnut Creek court systems, is projected to result in an annual increase of \$25,000. Staff will follow the trend over the next 6 months and adjust the budget as appropriate.

ACTION:

Motion to adopt resolution terminating the practice of allowing free juror parking in metered parking spaces effective no later than May 1, 2013.

Vicinity Map



Attachment: Resolution

APPROVED BY:


City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. -13

**TERMINATING THE PRACTICE OF ALLOWING FREE JUROR PARKING IN
METERED PARKING SPACES EFFECTIVE NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2013**

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez maintains parking meters in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, parking meter revenues are needed to maintain the parking meters and landscape and to implement short and long term parking improvements to the downtown; and

WHEREAS, California's Superior Court in Contra Costa County ("Courts") has included free parking passes with juror summons notice packets for jurors serving in Martinez; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of free parking passes for jurors is an unusual and uncommon practice in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, the Martinez Municipal Code has no provisions for free juror parking; and

WHEREAS, City staff has requested the Courts to terminate the issuance of free parking passes to jurors; and

WHEREAS, the managers of the Courts have agreed to terminate the issuance of free juror parking passes; and

WHEREAS, said managers have requested the City formally adopt a resolution memorializing the City request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Martinez that the practice of allowing free juror parking in metered parking spaces is hereby terminated effective no later than May 1, 2013.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 16th day of January, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ