

# Memorandum



**TO:** Great Falls Parking Advisory Commission

**FROM:** Craig Raymond, Director, Planning and Community Development

**DATE:** January 17, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Alley Parking/North Parking Garage

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Last month I received a complaint along with a request for a modification of how we organize parking along the stretch of metered parking spaces in the alley just south of the North Parking Garage. Just for clarification, this area has approximately 15 available parking spaces which are metered and are subject to the standard time limit that is consistent with the bulk of downtown Great Falls.

The specific request was that the city consider taking out the meters for some of these spots and save them for persons who purchase special passes for these specific spots. I believe that the primary beneficiary for this change in policy would be the employees of one specific business but could be expanded if others felt it was a positive change for the whole block.

When the request was made, I contacted Tena Grigsby with SP+ to discuss the possibility and gain an impression of the feasibility of such a request. We also spoke with another business owner on the block adjacent to the alley parking. This owner wasn't so keen on the idea as they felt some of their customers rely on this metered parking to avoid the Central Ave parking congestion.

Certainly there are merits to the request and warrant consideration, but it's a tough decision when there is lack of unanimity amongst the affected patrons of the system.

As I see it, here are the options:

1) grant the request, pull the meters from 2 or 3 spots on the far west end of the bank of spaces and charge the same rate as is charged for surface parking facilities. Continue to monitor effects to other adjoining business.

2) deny the request and continue to encourage the use of the existing parking garages and surface lots.

Of course staff is always open to alternative ideas that would ultimately benefit as many patrons as possible.

Thanks for your input,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Raymond".

Craig Raymond

North Parking Garage(3)



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