

# 16

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL BILL 117625

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AN ORDINANCE, relating to the Seattle Department of Transportation's Commuter Services Program; authorizing the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to adjust parking fees in the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower Garages in association with the Commute Trip Reduction Program's Guaranteed Ride Home Program for City employees; establishing that such fees be lower than regular daily parking fees in those facilities; and deleting obsolete language and amending Ordinance 119758 in connection thereto.

WHEREAS, the City supports the reduction of commute trips as a traffic management strategy, and implemented a Guaranteed Ride Home program as part of its overall Commute Trip Reduction Program to provide transportation options that allow City employees who normally commute to work by foot, ferry, vanpool, carpool, bicycle, bus, light rail, train, streetcar, or some other form of transit, with the flexibility to bring a car to work occasionally to address special errands or other mid-day trips; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 119758 established and amended fees for general on-street carpool parking permits, as well as for the City's Guaranteed Ride Home Benefit for City employees; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 119758 specifically refers to City employees utilizing the Guaranteed Ride Home Benefit by parking in the old Municipal Building Garage, which no longer exists; and

WHEREAS, the current Guaranteed Ride Home program allows City employees to park up to two days each month in the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower garages at a reduced rate; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.39.020 authorizes the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to establish rates and charges for the use of City facilities, including the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower garages; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to update the language in Ordinance 119758 to refer to the City's current facilities, and to remove obsolete language to better reflect the actual practice of depositing Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower parking revenues into the Department of Finance and Administrative Services Operating Fund to help offset the cost of operating those facilities; and



1 WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council continue to strongly support the Commute Trip Reduction  
2 Program's Guaranteed Ride Home Program and believe its associated parking rates in the  
3 Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower garages should remain below market, but should be  
4 adjusted from time to time based on public parking rates charged in those facilities; and

5 WHEREAS, the current rates charged to City employees for parking in the City's downtown  
6 garages under the Guaranteed Ride Home Program have not been raised since 1999; and

7 WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to consult  
8 with the Director of Transportation from time to time on the adjustment of the fees  
9 associated with the Guaranteed Ride Home program with regard to employee parking in  
10 the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower Garages; NOW, THEREFORE,

11 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

12 **Section 1.** Section 2 of Ordinance 119758 is amended as follows:

13 Section 2. The Director of ~~((the))~~ Transportation ~~((Department))~~ is authorized  
14 to continue the ~~((Parking Days for Eligible Commuters))~~ program ~~((as))~~ originally  
15 established by Ordinance 117298 to provide parking spaces in the ~~((Municipal Building  
16 Garage))~~ Seapark Garage and Seattle Municipal Tower Garage for registered  
17 participants in the City's Commute Trip Reduction Program's Guaranteed Ride Home  
18 Program on days they need their private vehicles at work. The Director is authorized to  
19 ~~((collect a fee and))~~ issue ~~((permits))~~ reduced fee coupons for parking spaces in these  
20 ~~((Municipal Building G))~~ garages ~~((from))~~ to said participants ~~((of \$7.00 per day per  
21 participant))~~. Said participants may use these reduced fee coupons ~~((purchase a  
22 Municipal Building Garage parking permit))~~ no more than two times per month. ~~((No  
23 more than fifteen spaces shall be made available on a given day to participants.))~~ The  
24 Director of Finance and Administrative Services shall adjust parking fees from time to



1 time, and shall consult with the Director of Transportation on the cost of parking  
2 associated with the reduced fee coupons of the Guaranteed Ride Home Program,  
3 provided however, that the cost of parking associated with the reduced fee coupons  
4 shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of 10 hours of parking available to the general  
5 public in the garages, or 50 percent of the early bird rate, whichever is lower.  
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8 **Section 2.** Section 4 of Ordinance 119758 is amended as follows:

9 Section 4. Carpool parking permit fees authorized in Section 3 (~~and fees~~  
10 ~~collected for the Guaranteed Ride Home Parking Benefit authorized in Section 2~~) shall  
11 be deposited into the Transportation Operating Fund. It is the intent of the Council to  
12 appropriate such funds to be used for the administration and enforcement of the  
13 Carpool Program, and for activities that promote trip reduction and the use of high-  
14 occupancy vehicles and discourage the use of single-occupant vehicles.  
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16 Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
17 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
18 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.  
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Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012, and  
signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)



**2013 BUDGET LEGISLATION FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Finance and Administrative Services	Chris Potter 386-1576	Jennifer Devore 615-1328

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE, relating to the Seattle Department of Transportation's Commuter Services Program; authorizing the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to adjust parking fees in the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower Garages in association with the Commute Trip Reduction Program's Guaranteed Ride Home Program for City employees; establishing that such fees be lower than regular daily parking fees in those facilities; and deleting obsolete language and amending Ordinance 119758 in connection thereto.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This legislation amends Ordinance 119758 to authorize the Director of Finance and Administrative Services, upon conferring with the Director of Transportation, to adjust the fees that City employees pay to park in the Seattle Municipal Tower (SMT) and Seapark garages as part of the Commute Trip Reduction Program's Guaranteed Ride Home benefit. The legislation also removes obsolete language from Ordinance 119758 that is no longer applicable.

**Background:**

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) administers a Commute Trip Reduction program that is designed to reduce single occupancy motor vehicle commute trips. As part of the Commute Trip Reduction program, SDOT implemented a Guaranteed Ride Home Program that allows City employees to park their personal vehicles in the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower garages at a reduced rate, up to twice every month. This program enables employees who normally commute to work by foot, ferry, vanpool, carpool, bicycle, bus, light rail, train, streetcar, or some other form of transit, with the flexibility to bring a car to work occasionally to address special errands or other mid-day trips.

The proposed legislation authorizes the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to set the Commute Trip Reduction/Guaranteed Ride Home parking rate at up to 80 percent of the rate paid by the public for daily parking in the Seapark and SMT garages upon conferring with the Director of Transportation. The current Commute Trip Reduction/Guaranteed Ride Home rate of \$7.00, which includes in-and-out privileges, is substantially below the \$14 Early Bird rate charged by Seapark and SMT. City employees take advantage of this very popular program approximately 28,000 times a year. The Mayor's Proposed 2013 Budget assumed a rate of \$10.00, which was expected to increase SMT and Seapark garage revenues by approximately \$85,000 per year. However, the Council amended the legislation to limit the maximum rate to 50% of the regular or early-bird special rate, whichever is lower. This leaves the rate unchanged for 2013. The Council amended FAS's budget accordingly.



**X This legislation has financial implications.**

This legislation authorizes the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to set the Commute Trip Reduction rate for the Guaranteed Ride Home Program and may increase revenue in future years.

**Other Implications:**

- a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?  
This legislation allows the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to adjust Commute Trip Reduction / Guaranteed Ride Home Program parking rates in the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Park Garages. The Director already has authority to set other parking rates at downtown civic garages.
- b) What is the financial cost of not implementing this legislation?  
Current Commute Trip Reduction rates have been in place since 1999 and are quite low compared to market rates. Leaving them as they are will forego approximately \$85,000 in additional revenue.
- c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?  
The Commute Trip Reduction Program is operated by the Seattle Department of Transportation. This legislation requires coordination between the Department of Finance and Administrative Services and the Department of Transportation before rate changes Program can be made for Program participants.
- d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?  
A new Commute Trip Reduction parking rate could be legislated from time to time.
- e) Is the legislation subject to public hearing requirements? No
- f) Other Issues: None

Please list attachments to the fiscal note below: None





**City of Seattle**  
**Office of the Mayor**

September 24, 2012

Honorable Sally J. Clark  
President  
Seattle City Council  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Dear Council President Clark:

I am transmitting the attached proposed Council Bill for consideration with the 2013 Proposed and 2014 Endorsed Budget. This legislation amends Ordinance 119758 to authorize the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to adjust fees that City employees pay to park in the City's downtown garages through the Commute Trip Reduction / Guaranteed Ride Home Program.

As part of the Commute Trip Reduction program, City employees can park their personal vehicles at a reduced rate in the Seapark and Seattle Municipal Tower garages up to two times a month, which allows them to occasionally drive to work and conduct special errands. The proposed Bill provides the City with the flexibility to adjust the reduced rate from time to time, and ensures it will continue to be less than the rate charged for regular daily parking at the two facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Chris Potter at 386-1576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McGinn", written over a horizontal line.

Michael McGinn  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council