

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE _____
COUNCIL BILL 117784

AN ORDINANCE related to Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs); authorizing the Director of Transportation to consider requests from employers within RPZs for employee permits under certain conditions; and amending Sections 11.16.315 and 11.16.316 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs), which have existed in Seattle since at least 1979, give parking priority to residents and their visitors and limit or prohibit parking by non-residents; and

WHEREAS, in June 2009, the Council passed Ordinance 123001, enacting Seattle Municipal Code 11.16.316 to authorize a pilot program in Link light rail station areas in southeast Seattle in which employees of businesses and institutions are eligible to receive RPZ permits; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is scheduled to report to the Council in spring 2013 on the pilot program and to recommend whether it should be continued, made permanent, or discontinued;

WHEREAS, in some RPZs, beyond those in the pilot program, where there is available on-street parking and issuance of RPZ permits to employees would not significantly increase neighborhood traffic impacts, allowing employees to park in RPZs under certain conditions is not inconsistent with the RPZ program goals; and

WHEREAS, the Council wants to authorize SDOT to consider requests from employers in other RPZs for employee permits under certain conditions; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 11.16.315 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 124063, is amended as follows:

SMC 11.16.315 Administration of ~~((and signage in))~~ restricted parking zones

A. Signage: Restricted parking zones shall be appropriately signed and/or marked.

B. ~~((Administration))~~ Program Components and Permit Use:

1. A restricted parking zone may have one or more of the following components:

1 a. Parking in the street is reserved for the exclusive use of those vehicles
2 displaying a valid RPZ permit, guest permit, or other identification issued by the Seattle
3 Department of Transportation as part of the RPZ program; or

4 b. Parking in the street is reserved during certain posted hours for
5 exclusive use of vehicles displaying a valid RPZ permit, guest permit, or other identification
6 issued by the Seattle Department of Transportation as part of the RPZ program but available at
7 all other times without restriction; or

8 c. Time limits are established for parking in the street that apply to all
9 vehicles except vehicles with a valid RPZ permit, guest permit, or other identification issued by
10 the Seattle Department of Transportation as part of the RPZ program.

11 2. In any restricted parking zone, the Director of Transportation or the Director's
12 designee may issue permits or other means of identification, maintain lists of vehicles owned or
13 used by permit holders, or adopt any other reasonable means of distinguishing vehicles that are
14 validly parked in a restricted parking zone.

15 a. A permit shall not guarantee or reserve to the holder an on-street
16 parking space within the designated RPZ.

17 b. If issued to a resident, a permit must be used within six contiguous city
18 blocks of the household unit address or, if issued to a business, ~~((or))~~ institution, or employee, a
19 permit must be used within six contiguous city blocks of the place of business or the institution.

20 C. Application:

21 1. In order to obtain an RPZ permit, any residential applicant shall present proof
22 of residency in or adjacent to the restricted parking zone boundary in addition to submittal of a
23 complete application to the Seattle Department of Transportation. As of January 1, 2010, any
24 residential applicant must also present proof that the address of vehicle registration matches the
25 applicant's household unit address or that the applicant is an out of state non-resident or active
26 military personnel.

1 2. In order to obtain an employee RPZ permit, an employer shall present, for each
2 employee requesting a permit, proof of employment within the RPZ boundary in addition to
3 submittal of a complete application to the Seattle Department of Transportation.

4 D. Permit Limit: As of January 1, 2010, each eligible household unit is entitled to have
5 no more than four RPZ permits at any one time.

6 1. Exception: The Director of Transportation may issue more RPZ permits than
7 the four-permit limit per household for the following land uses:

- 8 a. Adult family home;
- 9 b. Assisted living facility;
- 10 c. Domestic violence shelter; and
- 11 d. Permitted congregate residence.

12 In determining whether to grant additional permits in excess of the four-permit per household
13 limit, the Director of Transportation may also consider the availability of on-street parking in the
14 requestor's residential area and demonstrated need for additional permits.

15 E. Guest Permits. Each eligible resident may obtain no more than one annual or biennial
16 guest permit per household unit. It is illegal to use a guest permit on a resident's vehicle. As of
17 January 1, 2010, eligible residents may obtain no more than 50 single-day use guest permits per
18 year.

19 F. Motorcycles and Scooters. As of January 1, 2010, motorcycles and scooters are
20 authorized to park in an RPZ without an RPZ permit.

21 G. Free-Floating Car Sharing Vehicles. Any free-floating car sharing vehicle that
22 displays a valid free-floating car sharing permit is authorized to park in any Restricted Parking
23 Zone (RPZ) with the same privileges as a vehicle with a valid RPZ permit.

24 H. Employee Permits. Separate from the program authorized by Section 11.16.316, the
25 Director of Transportation shall consider requests from employers within an RPZ for employee
26 permits under certain conditions provided that this can be done while maintaining the following
27 goals of the RPZ program: reduce neighborhood traffic impacts by large parking demand

1 generators; support mixed-use neighborhoods and local business districts; continue to reduce
2 overall energy use and vehicle emissions; keep demand by residents and employees from
3 exceeding available on-street parking spaces in residential areas; and implement a customer-
4 oriented permit program. If resident RPZ permits are subsidized in a particular RPZ, an
5 employee is not eligible for such a subsidy. Among the criteria the Director shall consider in
6 determining whether to grant requests for employee RPZ permits are:

- 7 1. Availability of on-street parking on non-RPZ-signed blocks that is within a
8 reasonable walking distance of the employer;
- 9 2. Availability of alternate modes of transportation within a reasonable distance;
- 10 3. Availability of off-street parking within a reasonable distance;
- 11 4. Availability of on-street parking in the RPZ;
- 12 5. Time of day that employees work;
- 13 6. Number of permits requested by the employer;
- 14 7. Existence of other employers within the RPZ that could potentially also request
15 employee permits; and
- 16 8. Other hardships that may exist.

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18 Section 2. Section 11.16.316 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance
19 123001, is amended as follows:

20 **SMC 11.16.316 Restricted Parking Zone Permits for Use by Businesses—Pilot**

21 A. The purpose of this section is to authorize the Director of Transportation or his or her
22 designee to create a specific program for qualified businesses and institutions to apply for and
23 receive restricted parking zone permits to park in a restricted parking zone in the Initial Segment
24 LINK Light Rail transit station areas, including Rainier Beach, Othello, Columbia City, Mount
25 Baker, Beacon Hill, SODO and Stadium stations. This is in addition to permits issued to
26 qualified residents in these RPZs.
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1 B. The Director of Transportation or his or her designee is authorized to establish rules
2 and regulations for this pilot program, including permit eligibility, application submittal for
3 qualifying businesses and institutions, permit use, and alternate eligibility procedures as needed,
4 following the goals set forth in subsection D.

5 C. To inform communities about the intended creation of an RPZ in the LINK station
6 areas and to obtain public comment, Seattle Department of Transportation shall convene a series
7 of community meetings for the proposed zones prior to installation.

8 D. The purpose of the pilot program is to determine whether issuance of RPZ permits to
9 businesses or institutions and their employees assists the Seattle Department of Transportation in
10 reaching the following goals: reduce neighborhood traffic impacts by large parking demand
11 generators; support mixed-use neighborhoods and local business districts; continue to reduce
12 overall energy use and vehicle emissions; keep demand by residents and businesses (including
13 institutions) from exceeding available on-street parking spaces in residential areas; and,
14 implement a customer-oriented permit program.

15 E. In order to be issued a restricted parking permit, the permit holder must be an owner,
16 employee, or volunteer of a business or institution within or adjacent to an RPZ boundary.
17 Property owners for a business or institution within or adjacent to an RPZ boundary can also
18 obtain one permit per owner.

19 F. Permit holders who violate this section or the RPZ program rules may have their
20 permit revoked and may be excluded from obtaining future permits.

21 G. The Director of Transportation or his or her designee shall present a report to the City
22 Council two (2) and four (4) years after the pilot program becomes effective. The report shall
23 evaluate the pilot program relative to goals listed in subsection D. The biennial reports are
24 intended to assist Council in determining whether to continue the program for qualified
25 businesses and institutions located within the RPZs in the Initial Segment LINK Light Rail
26 transit station areas, including Rainier Beach, Othello, Columbia City, Mount Baker, Beacon
27 Hill, SODO and Stadium stations.

1 H. The Seattle Department of Transportation will annually monitor and survey RPZs
2 established under this pilot to determine utilization of parking spaces by residents and area
3 businesses and institutions within each of the pilot RPZs. The Seattle Department of
4 Transportation shall cease to renew RPZ permits for businesses and institutions in the next RPZ
5 cycle for an RPZ, excluding the SODO and Stadium station RPZs, when the annual monitoring
6 or survey of the RPZ indicate that twenty-five (25) percent or more of streets within any
7 particular RPZ have the following conditions: (1) at least seventy-five (75) percent of the
8 capacity of the street available for parking is generally occupied and (2) more than thirty-five
9 (35) percent of the vehicles parked on the street are owned by non-residents of the designated
10 area. In this subsection, the term "non-resident" includes businesses and institutions located in
11 the area.

12 I. The pilot program is intended to be in place no longer than four (4) years after its
13 creation. In determining whether to continue the pilot, either as a pilot or permanent program, or
14 discontinue it at the end of the four year period, the Council will consider the Seattle Department
15 of Transportation biennial reports.

16 ~~((J. The Seattle Department of Transportation shall not consider expansion of the pilot to
17 any other RPZs established in the City of Seattle except those RPZs located in the Initial
18 Segment LINK Light Rail transit station areas, including Rainier Beach, Othello, Columbia City,
19 Mount Baker, Beacon Hill, SODO and Stadium stations:))~~

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Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2013, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2013.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this _____ day of _____, 2013.

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2013.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Legislative	Martha Lester / 4-8149	NA

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE related to Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs); authorizing the Director of Transportation to consider requests from employers within RPZs for employee permits under certain conditions; and amending Sections 11.16.315 and 11.16.316 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary of the Legislation:

This ordinance authorizes the Director of Transportation to consider requests from employers in Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs) for employee permits under certain condition, separate from the RPZ pilot program in Link light rail station areas in southeast Seattle.

Background:

RPZs have generally given parking priority to residents and their visitors, and have limited or prohibited parking by non-residents. In 2009, a pilot program started in Link light rail station areas in southeast Seattle, in which employees of businesses and institutions are eligible to receive RPZ permits. The City Council has decided to modify the RPZ regulations so that the Director of Transportation may consider requests from employers in other RPZs for employee permits under certain conditions.

 x **This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

This ordinance does not have any direct financial implications. However, depending on the number of requests for RPZ permits submitted by employers to the Director of Transportation, the workload of staff in the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to review the requests may increase to the point at which SDOT may request additional staff and/or budget authority to accommodate this work, and may recommend changes to RPZ permit fees to cover these costs.

Other Implications:

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?** See discussion above.
- b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?** None.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?** No.
- d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?** None.
- e) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?** No.
- f) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?** No.
- g) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?** No.
- h) **Other Issues:**