

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to rescinding its action of December 5, 2012, requiring payment at metered parking spaces even if the meter or pay station is inoperable.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Bonin – LaBonge):

1. RESCIND Council action taken December 5, 2012 (CF 12-1764) relative to the adoption of a resolution requiring payment at metered parking spaces even if the meter or pay station is inoperable.
2. DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to report in six months relative to the impact of rescinding this policy, and any resulting change in the rate of vandalism of parking meters.
3. REQUEST that the Governor of the State of California veto Assembly Bill (AB) 61 (Gatto) which would prohibit a local authority from enacting an ordinance or resolution prohibiting or restricting the parking of a vehicle in a parking space that is regulated by an inoperable parking meter or inoperable parking payment center, inasmuch as rescinding the Council action taken December 5, 2012 to require payment at metered parking spaces even if the meter or pay station is inoperable renders AB 61 moot; and, to preserve the City's ability to revise this policy should any unanticipated negative consequences arise from revising the City's parking meter policy.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Officer has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On July 2, 2013, Council considered Motion (Bonin – LaBonge) relative to rescinding the policy approved by Council to require payment at metered parking spaces even if the meter or pay station is inoperable. Motion states that in 2010, as part of a new "Pay to Park Policy" for Card and Coin Meters, the City made it an offense punishable by fine and citation for motorists to park at inoperable or broken card and coin meters. Drivers seeking valuable parking spots in congested areas were reasonably outraged. Owners of small businesses, eager to see parking made available to customers, were appropriately dismayed. Motorists and small business owners felt they were being punished because a meter was broken and that the City was working against them.

Motion movers believe that the City's new meters, equipment, and technology have made this policy unnecessary. New card and coin meters are more resilient than their predecessors. Rendering them inoperable requires disabling both the coin and credit card functions. Also, LADOT staff receives immediate notification of any malfunctioning meter. Motion movers recommend that Council rescind its the policy to forbid parking at disabled or broken card and coin meters. Council referred Motion to the Transportation Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held July 24, 2013, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with LADOT staff. Staff stated that the new meters have operated efficiently with few incidents of malfunction. The Department has no experience permitting parking at inoperable meters with the new meters. The Department does have concerns regarding the proposed policy change's impacts on revenue and staff workload.

During the public comment period, LADOT employees responsible for parking meters maintenance and repairs expressed their opposition to the proposed policy change. Speakers stated that allowing vehicles to park at meters that are inoperable would incentivize vandalism of parking meters and reduce parking turnover and meter revenue. The new meters and their technology were praised, and the speakers urged the Committee to not revise the parking meter policy.

Committeemembers shared the concerns expressed by the speakers regarding vandalism. However, it could not be ascertained whether the reduction in vandalism was a result of the current parking meter policy, or the durability of the new meters. Comments were made that strong opposition to the current parking meter policy has been expressed by the public. The Committee recommended that Council approve Motion's recommendation to rescind the City's current parking meter policy. The Committee further recommended that Council direct LADOT to report on the impacts of this decision, and to also request the Governor to veto AB 61. Committee went on to stipulate that LADOT need not remove parking regulations from the meters at this time. In effect, the new policy directs LADOT to not ticket vehicles parked in spaces with inoperable parking meters.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BONIN:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
LABONGE:	ABSENT
PARKS:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-