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**COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**Date: July 20, 2010**

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**From:** City Manager

**Subject: STREET SWEEPING PARKING PERMIT PROCESS  
AND SWEEPING COST UPDATE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Establish a hearing process for exemption requests to park vehicles on the street during sweeping operations and affirm the remaining Street Sweeping Program and Policies as approved in 2009. Continue enforcement activities utilizing spirit of law principals.

Establish a minimum 24-month operational period before consideration of modifications to the current program.

**BACKGROUND**

In response to ongoing interest in a more effective street sweeping program, last year the City Council approved the institution of an enforcement program to reduce the number of vehicles parked on the street interfering with sweeping operations.

At the July 6, 2010, meeting, Council directed staff to identify a process to consider hardship exemptions from the prohibition of parking on the street during the period of street sweeping operations. Council also requested an update on the costs of Brea sweeping operations and surrounding communities.

**Permit/Exemption Process**

Due to the short time duration of sweeping operations and the interest in maintaining

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the most effective sweeping program, staff recommends utilizing a hearing process to allow a focused review of the individual circumstances regarding the exemption request. As part of the application for a hearing, the applicant would be required to demonstrate that at the time sweeping operations occur, they are unable to park all vehicles on-site. As with the overnight permit, they would be required to demonstrate they are utilizing all available on-site parking areas with the exception of a portion of the garage. Because of the significant time difference, it is not recommended that possession of an overnight permit automatically qualify a resident for a street sweeping parking permit. From October 2009 through April 2010, the Police Department issued approximately 4,748 citations related to the sweeping program, of the 328 citations submitted for administrative review, 15 (or 5%) requested relief based on lack of adequate parking.

The review for street sweeping parking permits would be conducted through the Public Works Department and the hearing would be conducted by the Public Works Director or designee. The process would mirror that utilized by Community Development in considering appeals for overnight parking permits. In recognition of the staff time required to process the permit application and conduct the review hearing, staff recommends establishing a \$100 application fee for the street sweeping parking permit. In addition to demonstrating compliance with the criteria to fully utilize on-site parking, the application would provide information supporting the hardship associated with complying with the street sweeping parking restrictions. Hardship considerations may include work schedules, medical condition or other circumstances that would preclude

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the movement of vehicles off the street during the limited duration of sweeping operations. As circumstances change from time to time, it is recommended that the permits be reviewed on an annual basis.

Upon review of the application and consideration of the circumstances presented by the applicant, the Public Works Director would be authorized to approve an annual street sweeping parking permit.

### **Costs of Street Sweeping Operations**

In response to Council discussion about Brea's cost for street sweeping operations, staff updated our previous survey of adjacent communities. As was the case in 2008, Brea's costs remain significantly lower than those of our neighboring communities:

- City of La Habra uses Nation Wide Street Sweeping Services for a cost of \$17.64 per curb mile and streets are swept weekly.
- City of Chino Hills uses Clean Sweep Street Sweeping Services for a cost of \$16 per curb mile and streets are swept twice a month.
- City of Diamond Bar uses RS Dixon Street Sweeping Services for a cost of \$14.58 per curb mile and streets are swept every other week.
- City of Placentia uses Athens Services for street sweeping services for a cost of \$22.75 per curb mile and sweeps twice a month.

The City of Brea uses in-house staff and equipment at a cost of \$11.10 per curb mile and sweeps all streets and alleyways a minimum of once a week.

The Public Works Department operates the street sweepers on a set schedule to best serve the community and has the ability to provide sweeping services in the event of an

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emergency, prior to capital improvement projects, or after special events. Using in-house staff and equipment for street sweeping is benefiting the residents and business community both financially and by providing a high level of service. Brea also receives \$11,322 from the State of California and County of Orange for miscellaneous sweeping services.

### **SUMMARY**

In response to Council direction, staff has developed a permit review process to address hardships created by the street sweeping enforcement program. As demonstrated by field observations, citation review, and our survey of adjacent communities, the program is providing a high quality and efficient service to the Brea community. In addition to the permit process, the Police Department will continue their efforts to work with residents to address special circumstances through a “spirit of the law” approach to enforcement activities. Given the effectiveness of the program and in recognition of our reduced resources, staff recommends a minimum 24-month operational period prior to considering additional modifications to the policies and program.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tim O'Donnell, City Manager

Prepared by:

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