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# City of Concord, New Hampshire

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### PARKING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 16, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: City Councilor Mark Coen  
City Councilor Allen Bennett  
Main Street Concord representative Pam Peterson  
Chamber of Commerce Representative Mark Ciborowski  
Main Street Concord representative Jessica Eshleman  
Parking Manager Dave Florence  
Parking Clerk Pat Steward

ABSENT: City Councilor Fred Keach  
City Councilor Robert Werner  
Community Representative Jeff Bart  
Concord Area Transit representative Jim Sudak

GUESTS: Assistant City Planner Stephen Henninger  
Traffic Engineer Rob Mack  
Deputy City Manager Carlos Baia  
Deputy Police Chief Brad Osgood

1. Councilor Bennett moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting; Ms. Eshleman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Chief Osgood distributed copies of the pro forma, a projection of revenue and expenses for the parking control unit. Kiosk revenue has increased over the last few months; billing revenue has also increased, largely due to an increase in distribution of statements of account. Until March of this years, collections were \$19-23k per month. Now it is averaging \$40k a month.

The primary causes for the deficits indicated in the pro forma are the current economy, principal and interest payments, and \$62k to install kiosks in the Capitol Commons garage. Mr. Florence suggested that an increase in on-street meter rates to \$1.00 an hour could result in being out of the red by 2014. Chief Osgood added that the garages have all seen a slight increase in usage since last year. He reminded the committee that the discounted day passes for the Capitol Commons discontinue once the kiosks are installed. Ms. Peterson inquired whether they could be continued for downtown employees; Mr. Florence answered that other discount programs are being considered.

Ms. Eshleman inquired whether a violator's vehicle registration was held if they have outstanding parking citations in Concord. Mr. Florence answered no, not now, but that

Manchester is currently in a test of automatic information entry with the state; that test ends in December, and we will have a better picture of the possibility after that.

### 3. Firehouse Block leases

Mr. Florence informed the committee that the \$20-a-month leases to the Firehouse Block Association expire at the end of December. Many of the current residents have handicapped parking permits and could park for free in the public parking spots. Discussion ensued regarding how much to charge after December: Councilor Coen suggested quoting market price, to see if they counteroffer. Councilor Bennett moved to offer market rate; Ms. Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Florence distributed copies of an article in the Union Leader about parking in Concord. Ms. Eshleman stated that it didn't come to a definitive point but contained some positive comments.

### 5. General Discussion

a. Ms. Peterson inquired whether a Cale representative would be attending a Parking Committee meeting to address cold-weather issues, as previously requested. Mr. Florence replied that he had talked with Cale and that they were going to compare problems at similar locations. Councilor Coen answered that he felt Cale has an obligation to attend as requested, as the city recently spent another \$64,000 for Capitol Commons kiosks. Ms. Peterson agreed that Cale wasn't practicing good customer service and that they have other clients in New Hampshire they could check in on as well. Councilor Coen directed Mr. Florence to ask Cale again to attend.

b. Councilor Coen asked about any aftermath of the overnight parking ordinance being rescinded. Mr. Florence said we've received some calls about vehicles on the street for more than 48 hours; Councilor Bennett said he hadn't noticed any difference. Mr. Florence addressed the street cleaning parking ban scheduled for May 15-23; he has met with General Services to avoid towing vehicles. The 3-11 patrol shift will knock on doors, and cleaning will start at 4 a.m. They will try to work around any remaining cars.

c. Mr. Mack addressed previous discussions of Thorndike Street; he said he was waiting to see what effect the opening of the Duprey "Smile" building, scheduled for July, will have on traffic.

d. Councilor Coen informed the committee that any action on the West Congregational Church's request to ban overnight parking in their area has been delayed until it can be determined if it's really an issue. The church has since posted signs not to park overnight, so it's difficult to determine if there is still a problem. Mr. Baia asked Mr. Florence to remind the church that public streets can't be posted by private citizens.

e. Ms. Eshleman inquired whether the budget has impacted staff of the Parking Control Unit. Mr. Florence said that, after Ms. Steward's retirement in September, a parking enforcement officer will be moved into the parking clerk's spot for six months. There is also another potential retirement in the next fiscal year.

f. Councilor Coen asked when the gates will be removed from the Capitol Commons. Mr. Florence replied it would be on or around July 1<sup>st</sup>, depending on when the kiosks are installed.

Ms. Eshleman moved to adjourn; Ms. Peterson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.