



AGENDA ITEM

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DATE: JANUARY 6, 2009

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ROBERT L. WOODINGS, P.E. *RLW* FOR,  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER

INITIATED BY: LUIS ESTEVEZ *LE*  
PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER

REVIEWED BY: ROBERT C. DUNEK *RD*  
CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: STREET SWEEPING PARKING RESTRICTION  
POLICY

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Street Sweeping Parking Restriction Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is minimal fiscal impact associated with the recommended action, which is to approve a Policy that allows staff to evaluate individual city streets and housing tracts for potential street sweeping parking restrictions. Pending Council approval of the Policy, staff is prepared to bring forward for Council consideration a recommendation to approve parking restrictions for several pre-identified streets based on the criteria outlined in the Policy. The cost estimate to fabricate and install signs for these streets is \$4,600. These funds are available in the Public Works operating budget. Enforcement of street sweeping parking restrictions would be absorbed into the daily activities of both deputies and community service officers during their shift hours. Future incremental costs will vary depending on the breadth of areas added to a parking restriction on street sweeping days.

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### BACKGROUND:

Parking issues have been identified as a major concern for residents, as evidenced by the number of GovPopulous tickets received on this subject and previous community surveys. Vehicles parked on City streets during street sweeping day is of particular concern to many residents as they do not always allow for streets and gutters to be adequately swept. In studying this issue, staff has concluded that ineffective street sweeping is not only aesthetically unappealing, but also contributes to pollution of local creeks, lakes, and the ocean. In addition, compliance with strict state and federal water quality regulations requires effective street cleaning. As such, staff is proposing a policy that would allow the City Council to consider parking restrictions on streets or tracts as a means to improve the effectiveness of the City's street sweeping program.

The City maintains 366 curb miles of public streets, both residential and arterial, and sweeping is conducted on a weekly basis. During the 2007-08 fiscal year 910 tons of debris were removed from City streets.

To minimize negative impacts to residents, residential sweeping is conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the day after refuse is collected. On all arterial streets, parking restrictions are already in effect. Sweeping of arterial streets is conducted from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. Holidays that fall on Monday result in arterial and residential streets being swept on the following calendar day.

In the 2006 Resident and Business Satisfaction Study, residents and businesses were asked the following question:

*Street sweepers clean the public streets and gutters in Lake Forest every week. In many areas of the City, however, the street sweepers are not able to effectively clean the streets due to parked cars. To improve the effectiveness of street sweeping, the City is considering a policy that would prohibit parking on a street once per week for several hours. Do you support or oppose the policy of restricting parking to improve street sweeping?*

Support for the policy was 69% among residents and 82% among businesses. When respondents were informed that street sweeping is one of the most

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effective practices for reducing storm water pollution, support for the policy increased to 83% for residents and 95% for businesses.

Several cities were also contacted regarding their street sweeping restrictions. Aliso Viejo, Garden Grove, Newport Beach and Orange have restricted parking throughout the entire city on street sweeping day. Costa Mesa, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, San Clemente and San Juan Capistrano have restrictions in specific areas, often several housing tracts within one geographic area. In contrast, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and Irvine do not have street sweeping parking restrictions.

Over the past two years, staff from the City Manager's Office, Police Services, Public Works, and Code Enforcement have worked together to research and analyze citywide parking issues, focusing primarily on residential neighborhoods. Over the past several months this working group has discussed overflow parking, commercial and recreational vehicle parking, and parking restrictions on street sweeping day among other issues and traffic concerns.

### DISCUSSION:

The City receives numerous requests from residents and some homeowner's associations to implement neighborhood street sweeping parking restrictions, primarily to address ineffective street sweeping caused by parked vehicles blocking the sweeper's path. To help define problem areas that would warrant City intervention, staff has developed a policy that utilizes objective criteria, data collected in the field, and professional judgment to determine if a street sweeping restriction is warranted on a given street segment, street, or tract.

The problem of ineffective street sweeping due to parked vehicles is generally a localized problem and not prevalent across the entire City. This issue is typically found in areas of higher population density where on-street parking is more common. Therefore, rather than recommending a Citywide street sweeping parking restriction at this point, the proposed policy will evaluate potential parking restrictions on a street-by-street basis. The City Council has approved parking restrictions in the past on a street-by-street basis, and staff

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has observed a marked improvement in the effectiveness of street sweeping operations on those streets. Fewer cars are left on the street and the streets are much cleaner than before. However, to date, those street sweeping restrictions were usually adopted in conjunction with other parking controls, such as residential permit parking, and there is no policy in place by which to evaluate stand alone requests for street sweeping restrictions on individual streets.

In developing the proposed policy, staff has identified several key elements that should be considered when evaluating a potential parking restriction. These elements form the basis of the proposed street sweeping policy and include an analysis of the potential displacement of vehicles, identification of the parking capacity of impacted streets, identification of the number of parked vehicles blocking the street sweeper, and determining if there is a visible debris problem. While considering these factors, the City must be mindful that any parking restriction will invariably result in a hardship for some residents living in the impacted area, many of whom rely upon on-street parking to accommodate their parking needs.

The proposed policy consists of a phased approach initiated in reaction to a request or complaint received from the public, or proactively if City staff and the City's street sweeping contractor identify streets that have excessive debris, but no resident initiated complaints. Once initiated, the process will involve site visits to the subject street to collect data on two consecutive sweeping days. The type of data collected will include the number of parked cars blocking the street sweeper, and a visual inspection of the gutters and catch basins along with photo documentation. Staff will then analyze the data collected to determine if a street sweeping restriction is warranted. This process is described in greater detail in the attached proposed policy (Attachment).

Data collected in the past has indicated that on most street sweeping days, an average of 25% of the curb miles to be swept are blocked by parked cars, which leads to varying amounts of debris that is not collected. It is important to note that this is an average, and the problem is typically isolated to certain areas where population densities tend to be higher. Most residential streets in

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the City do not experience 25% blockage by parked cars on street sweeping day. Nonetheless, if a street is at or near 25% blocked by parked cars on street sweeping day, staff believes this is a good preliminary indicator that a street sweeping parking restriction may be warranted, and further analysis is needed.

In addition, staff will note peripheral issues such as the number and species of trees lining the streets, the number of homes impacted by ineffective street sweeping and whether or not the street in question is fronted by single-family or multi-family homes. These issues are relevant as they provide staff and the City Council with the overall context of the existing street and neighborhood conditions when considering the implementation of street sweeping parking restrictions.

If staff determines that the subject street(s) are swept inadequately due to parked vehicles, the Director of Public Works/City Engineer may recommend the City Council approve and direct staff to implement a street sweeping parking restriction per the proposed Street Sweeping Restriction Policy. To match the typical street sweeping schedule, parking would be prohibited from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Actual recommended schedules would be developed in coordination with the City's street sweeping contractor and Police Services.

If staff determines that a street sweeping restriction is appropriate for a specific street, the general neighborhood area will then be studied to determine the final limits of the restriction. It is important to note that imposing street sweeping parking restrictions on one street can create parking problems on surrounding streets as displaced vehicle owners search for other places to park. This can lead to newly impacted residents on surrounding streets to request street sweeping parking restrictions. One potential option to address this displacement effect would be to apply the same parking restriction to a broader area at the onset. To that end, staff will study this issue carefully so as not to transfer parking problems onto adjacent streets when proposing parking restrictions on "hot spot" streets.

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### Enforcement of Parking Restrictions

To enforce the established street sweeping parking restrictions effectively, Police Services would issue parking citations to vehicles parked on the street in violation of the street sweeping parking restriction. To inform residents of the new parking restriction, staff will place notices on vehicles parked within areas of new restrictions shortly before signs are placed. Once an area has been posted for street sweeping restrictions, warning citations will also be issued for the first month the restriction is in effect, followed thereafter by actual parking citations.

Staff proposes to use existing Police Services personnel to enforce street sweeping parking restrictions. An adequate number of staff currently exist to conduct this work; however, should the number of streets with these restrictions increase over time, the services of an outside firm specializing in parking enforcement may be considered during the annual budget planning process. If restrictions are approved, staff will monitor service requirements and develop options for further consideration if necessary.

### CONCLUSION:

The proposed Street Sweeping Parking Restriction Policy will establish a fair and equitable method for analyzing the need to establish parking restrictions, and ensure that street sweepers are able to collect as much debris as possible before it goes into the storm drain system. Resident survey data indicates that there is strong support among residents, homeowner's associations and businesses for parking restrictions resulting in cleaner streets, and a formal policy to that effect will assist in achieving that goal. The City Council has considered and approved street sweeping restrictions on a street-by-street basis in the past with much success in achieving the above-stated goals.

Staff has already test applied the proposed criteria outlined in this policy to several streets previously known to be "hot spot" locations. These locations were identified through data collection and visual inspections conducted in 2005 and 2006, and through residents and homeowner's associations, which informed staff of street sweeping parking problems on their streets directly or through the Gov Populous system. Should Council approve this policy, staff

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will return in the near future with a resolution and list of proposed street sweeping parking restrictions on those identified streets for Council consideration.

Attachment: Proposed Street Sweeping Parking Restriction Policy

## **STREET SWEEPING PARKING RESTRICTION POLICY**

The City Council of the City of Lake Forest hereby determines that it is in the best interest of the community to ensure that City streets are thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis. To that end, the implementation of a policy to establish street sweeping parking restrictions will ensure that this service is effective by reducing the number of parked vehicles that impede the work of street sweepers. In addition, this policy provides a framework from which to study and implement street sweeping parking restrictions on an as-needed basis.

Several factors are to be considered before a street sweeping parking restriction can be implemented in a targeted area. The evaluation process will be initiated on a proactive and reactive basis when staff receives a request from a resident or when staff and the City's street sweeping contractor have identified streets that meet the criteria set forth herein. Individual streets will be considered and evaluated once every two years. Staff will use the process described below to determine if a street sweeping parking restriction is warranted.

### **PHASE 1: FIELD EVALUATION**

The evaluation process for a potential street sweeping parking prohibition begins by conducting a field review and collecting information based on a complaint received from a resident or observations made by City staff. The review is based upon the professional judgment of Public Works staff based on information observed and collected in the field. The process and type of data to be collected in the initial assessment by staff will include:

1. Visual site evaluation on street sweeping day for two consecutive weeks
2. Visual inspection of gutters and catch basins for debris
3. Determine the number of parked cars on the subject street
4. Obtain photo documentation

### **PHASE 2: DATA ANALYSIS**

#### **Tier 1: Street Evaluation**

The criteria listed below will be considered cumulatively and no one single criterion will qualify or disqualify a street or tract from further consideration or evaluation of a potential street sweeping restriction:

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1. Calculate percentage of street blockage and determine if it meets or exceeds 25%
2. Follow-up field inspection confirms that the same sections of gutter are not swept for two consecutive weeks due to parked cars
3. Determine via visual inspection if ineffective street sweeping has negatively impacted water quality by allowing excessive debris to accumulate in gutters and catch basins

### Tier 2: Geographical Area

If staff determines that a street sweeping restriction is appropriate for a specific street based on the analysis of the data in Tier 1, the limits of the potential restriction will be evaluated in the context of the surrounding area to determine the appropriate restriction boundaries for the geographical area. The impact to nearby streets of the proposed parking restriction must be considered in an effort to avoid shifting the parking problem to adjacent streets.

1. Determine the logical parking restriction boundary on the subject street for street sweeping day and evaluate whether or not that boundary will shift the parked vehicles to adjacent streets and create similar problems there identified in the Tier 1 analysis:
  - If yes, post entire area with restriction
  - If no, determine limited restriction location based upon data collected and analyzed in Tier 1 and 2
2. Staff will present its findings to the City Council for their consideration and will recommend approval of the parking restrictions as appropriate
3. If approved by Council, staff will implement the parking restrictions which include the posting of signs and outreach to the affected neighborhoods to be followed by enforcement

### PHASE 3: ENFORCEMENT

In order to effectively enforce established street sweeping parking restrictions, the City's Police Services Department shall have the authority to issue parking citations to vehicles that are parked on the street in violation of the street sweeping parking restriction.