



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council **Item No.** _____

FROM: Interim City Administrator

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Revised Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy

MEETING DATE: November 7, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the resolution and approve the Revised Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy, and direct staff to implement the policy upon adoption.

BACKGROUND:

The existing Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy was approved by the Traffic Commission on January 4, 2012, and approved by City Council on March 6, 2012. The existing Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy is approximately five (5) years old and should be updated in conformance with the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). The CA MUTCD provides for uniform standards and specifications for all official traffic control devices and markings in California and is pursuant to the provisions of California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 21400 and the recommendation of the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC). It should be noted that the City Council officially adopted the CA MUTCD as a City standard at the November 3, 2015 City Council Meeting.

ANALYSIS:

Blue curb zones are reserved parking spaces along the curb on a public street for disabled individuals. Blue curbs denote "no standing or parking" except by vehicles that display a distinguishing license plate or a placard issued pursuant to Section 2251.5 ("Disabled Persons' Exemption") or Section 9105 ("Disabled or Blind Veterans") of the California Vehicle Code (CVC). To be enforceable, a disabled parking zone requires a blue painted curb and the appropriate signage.

Disabled blue curb parking zones are typically installed in front of residential developments where disabled persons reside, and where no off-street parking spaces will facilitate their needs.

A copy of the Revised Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy is included as “Attachment 1” of this staff report. This policy describes the policies and procedures related to disabled blue curb parking spaces, as well as the procedures in procuring one.

An application process has been developed in the revised policy in which applicants fill out forms (see “Attachment 2”) who are making the request for a disabled blue curb parking space. All applicants must show proof of possession of a blue or red disability placard issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). A red placard represents a temporary disability, whereas a blue placard represents permanent disability. Public Works/Engineering staff will verify the validity of the disability placard every year, as well as reviewing and assessing the applicant’s submitted forms.

When evaluating any new disabled parking space request, Engineering staff will evaluate the area in the general vicinity of the request to determine if the area is suitable for a disabled blue curb parking space. Alternative options will be raised if a blue curb disabled parking space is not suitable. The goal of this policy is to facilitate disabled parking needs of the area.

On September 13, 2017, the Traffic Commission reviewed and discussed the proposed Revised Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy for the first time. Commerce residents were notified by mail of this meeting. The meeting was very well attended by the public. Public comments were provided, where there were comments both in support and against a blue curb policy. The issues were discussed, analyzed, and debated by the traffic commissioners. The item was continued to the next commission meeting in October and the Revised Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy was unanimously approved by the Traffic Commission at the October 11, 2017 meeting.

As part of this policy revision, staff will include provisions to ensure conformance with the CA MUTCD. Additionally, staff may solicit the expertise of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consultant, as well as with the City Attorney, to ensure compliance with existing codes and regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed changes will have no new fiscal impact on the operating budget.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

This item relates to Council’s 2016 Strategic Action Plan’s:

Community Quality of Life

- Guiding Principle 4 to “support and evaluate community services, programs and events that promote healthy and quality lifestyles for our residents. Enhance public safety and social services through innovative programs that meet the needs of the residential and business communities.”

Respectfully submitted: Maryam Babaki, Public Works & Development Services Director
Prepared by: Seung Yang, Deputy Director of Engineering Services
Fiscal Impact reviewed by: Josh Brooks, Assistant Director of Finance
Approved as to form by: Noel Tapia, City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Policy & Procedures for Physically Challenged Accessible Parking Spaces
(Disabled Blue Curb Parking Policy)
2. Application forms