



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: March 6, 2012
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation *ak*
Subject: Request by Councilmember Gold to Provide the Traffic & Parking Commission Authority to Approve Preferential Permit Parking Zones

INTRODUCTION

Councilmember Gold requested that the City Council consider providing the Traffic & Parking Commission authority to approve preferential permit parking zones. With this proposal, the City Council would only hear appeals of Traffic & Parking Commission decisions. Like all other discretionary decisions, the City Council can also call up a decision by the Traffic & Parking Commission within 30 days after it is rendered.

DISCUSSION

The Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) for establishing a permit parking (7-3-206) and modifying a permit zone (7-3-207) requires City Council action to approve the establishment or modification of a permit zone. With the exception of permit zone modifications initiated by the City Council, a Traffic & Parking Commission recommendation is required prior to the City Council taking action.

The City Council and Traffic & Parking Commission considered six permit zones during calendar year 2011 and five permit zones during calendar year 2010. The process often takes 4-5 months between submittal of a petition request and the implementation of the zone due to the time it takes to prepare the appropriate surveys and schedule for both Traffic & Parking Commission review and City Council action. By providing Traffic & Parking Commission authority, this process would be shortened by 1-2 months and the staff resources dedicated towards preparing reports and presentations would be reduced.

Should the City Council agree to the proposal to provide the Traffic & Parking Commission with authority to establish and modify preferential permit parking zones, an ordinance to modify the Municipal Code would be needed. Staff suggests such an

ordinance include an appeal process for the Traffic & Parking Commission decisions. It is also suggested that the appeal process be initiated within 14 days of Traffic & Parking Commission action and that the appellant provide written justification for the appeal. The appellant would also be requested to provide letters from other residents and/or businesses supporting the appeal.

Of the 11 permit zones considered by the City Council over the past two years, most were recommended by the Traffic & Parking Commission and approved by the City Council with unanimous or near-unanimous votes. Staff estimates only one or two of these zones would have been appealed to the City Council if the Traffic & Parking Commission had authority to make decisions relating to permit parking zones.

FISCAL IMPACT

No direct financial impact. Staff resources saved from streamlining permit parking approval process would be dedicated to other priorities.

RECOMMENDATION

If the City Council agrees with this request, staff recommends direction be provided to prepare an ordinance to give the Traffic & Parking Commission authority to approve preferential permit parking zones. The ordinance would be brought forward for consideration at a future City Council meeting.



David Gustavson
Approved By