

Berkeley City Council
District 5

ACTION CALENDAR May 1, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Laurie Capitelli
Subject: Five-Minute Grace Period at Pay-and-Display Parking Meters

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution establishing a five-minute grace period for vehicles where a valid receipt from a pay-and-display meter is appropriately displayed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown.

BACKGROUND

The District 5 office has received multiple complaints from Berkeley patrons and local business owners about the aggressive enforcement of parking within neighborhood commercial districts. Anecdotally we hear that parking enforcement officers have been seen waiting at targeted cars for the exact minute the receipt has expired. This has created tremendous ill will and frustration, ultimately discouraging people from patronizing our local businesses.

This is especially a problem in the Berkeley section of Solano Avenue where free parking is available just a few blocks away in Albany, and less than a mile away in El Cerrito.

It is quite possible that patrons' watches could be one or two minutes off the time on the meter. More importantly, this grace period would make parking just a bit friendlier while maintaining time limits and meter revenue.

The City of Oakland passed a similar resolution in December 2011. They have instituted this policy on a six-month trial basis.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Laurie Capitelli, District 5 981-7150

Attachment
1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.##,###-N.S.

ESTABLISHING A FIVE MINUTE GRACE PERIOD FOR PARKING AT PUBLIC PAY-
AND-DISPLAY PARKING METERS IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley wants to encourage patronage of its local businesses by both Berkeley citizens and out-of-town visitors; and

WHEREAS, street parking in the City of Berkeley should be an attractive amenity for the patrons of Berkeley businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley needs to balance the need for parking meter revenue and parking turnover with the need to encourage patrons in our commercial districts; and

WHEREAS, the cost of parking fines have risen significantly in the past three years and become significant if not excessive for the violation; and

WHEREAS, many Berkeley citizens have registered complaints about the aggressive nature of parking meter enforcement in the neighborhood commercial districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that vehicles that display a valid receipt from a pay-and-display parking meter may have five minutes beyond the time limit displayed on the receipt before a parking ticket will be issued.