



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Downtown Parking Committee

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** September 12, 2019

**TO:** Downtown Parking Committee

**FROM:** Robert J. Dayton, Transportation Planning and Parking Manager  
Victor Garza, Downtown Plaza and Parking Manager

**SUBJECT:** PROCESS TO REMOVE NUISANCE PARKING SIGNAGE CITY-WIDE

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Downtown (DPC) Parking Committee receive a report on the process for removing nuisance signage reserving public parking for private use throughout the City.

**DISCUSSION:**

Following completion of the Funk Zone Access and Parking Assessment Study (Study), and the receipt of public complaints, staff understands the need to implement a process to remove nuisance signage placed on public and private property that essentially reserves parking in the public right-of-way for private use. This signage reduces the existing parking supply available to the general public. Although the Study recommended action items designed to support the continued vitality of the Funk Zone by removing the nuisance signage, staff believes this same process should be implemented throughout the City. This sign removal process, developed as part of a slate of proposed action items designed to provide efficient and convenient neighborhood access, will enhance the character and vitality of the Funk Zone and other neighborhoods in the City experiencing on-street parking access issues.

On April 23, 2019, Council gave direction to staff to implement a process to remove the nuisance signage reserving public parking for private use in the Funk Zone. Although the process will be implemented City-wide, staff will begin in the Funk Zone where several businesses have posted signs that indicate that sections of the public right of way are not for public parking or are authorized parking only, tow-away zones.

Staff will initiate a process of enforcing SBMC 10.12.170, which prohibits such signs. Because the nuisance signage has been in place for many years, staff will begin by providing informal notices to businesses and property owners advising them of the

nuisance signage and asking that it be removed. This will allow property owners time to make any changes to their property necessary to discourage parking in front of doors and driveways, such as enhanced entryways and striping. Staff will work with the businesses and property owners to explore other legal options to address their parking - related needs. If businesses and property owners fail to respond to the initial notice, staff will begin the formal process of issuing Notices of Violation of the City's Municipal Code and subsequent Administrative Violations, per SBMC 1.25, for failure to comply.

Parking Staff will be working closely with Community Development's Code Enforcement staff and our City Attorney's office to ensure a comprehensive, legal and fair process.

Staff will update the DPC after six months on the effectiveness of the process.