

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 18, 2019
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Business Services Report**

Waterfront Parking Issues Workshop

Parking in Waterfront public parking lots has long been in high demand. The increased popularity of the Funk Zone, Lower State Street, and the explosion of stand-up paddle boarding have placed additional stress on this finite resource. The increase in popularity, especially on weekends and during the summer months, has placed parking availability at a premium, primarily in the Harbor Main public parking lot. For example, on many days the Harbor Main Lot is filled to capacity well before noon, forcing temporarily closure of the lot until public parking spaces open up. The lot closures can, at times, last hours.

Staff have received complaints on a variety of parking related issues from the public, businesses, slip permittees, and visitors. In an effort to ascertain the public's perceptions and experiences with Waterfront public parking lot issues, staff convened a Waterfront Parking Issues Workshop on June 13, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the public. Meeting notices were placed on all four Marina gates, signs were posted at the entry to Harbor Main, Harbor West, and Leadbetter parking lot. A Black Board Connect notice regarding the Workshop was sent to over 1,400 recipients on June 7, 2019. Over 50 members of the public attended the meeting. At the meeting, members of the public were broken up into five smaller groups in an effort to allow maximum participation by all in attendance.

Waterfront staff is planning a follow-up meeting with the Harbor Commission Parking Subcommittee scheduled for July 22 at 4 p.m. in the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theater. The meeting will include a review of the results of the Workshop as well as policy recommendations to address the most pressing issues as designated by the majority of Workshop attendees.

Parking Legislation

Assembly Bill 516 (Chiu, San Francisco) is currently making its way through the legislative process and proposes to remove tow authority for three key parking functions: vehicles parked over 72 hours, vehicles with registration expired over 6 months, and vehicles with 5 or more parking citations.

The City of Santa Barbara opposes AB 516 for the following reasons:

1. Vehicles parked over 72 hours occupy parking spaces that would otherwise be used by retail and restaurant establishments, markedly impacting local businesses and sales-tax revenues.

2. Eliminating the ability to tow vehicles after 72 hours, or to tow unregistered vehicles or vehicles with five parking citations, would invite blight into our community, a tourist destination deeply dependent on revenues from visitors near and abroad.
3. An inability to tow illegally parked vehicles will severely impact parking lots and street parking that are already crowded, and in many instances, oversubscribed.
4. AB 516 will especially impact our Waterfront Parking lots, conflicting with Local Coastal Plan priorities for visitor-serving facilities and coastal access.

The City of Santa Barbara, along with the California League of Cities and the California Public Parking Association, oppose the bill as currently written. Waterfront Department staff recently developed an opposition letter that was signed by Mayor Murrillo and sent to Sacramento (see attached). Staff will keep the Harbor Commission apprised regarding the fate of AB 516.

Attachment: Letter from Mayor Murrillo dated May 29, 2019

Prepared By: Brian Bosse, Waterfront Business Manager



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

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May 29, 2019

Cathy Murillo
Mayor

The Honorable David Chiu
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0017

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735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101-1990

RE: AB 516 (Chiu) – Oppose

Dear Assembly Member Chiu:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, a coastal community of 90,000 residents, I am writing to oppose your Assembly Bill 516 for these reasons:

1. Vehicles parked more than 72 hours occupy parking spaces that would otherwise be used by retail and restaurant establishments, markedly impacting local businesses and sales-tax revenues.
2. Eliminating the ability to tow vehicles after 72 hours, or to tow unregistered vehicles or vehicles with five parking citations, would contribute to blight in our community, a tourist destination deeply dependent on revenues from visitors near and abroad.
3. An inability to tow illegally parked vehicles would severely impact parking lots and street parking that are already crowded, and in many instances, oversubscribed.
4. AB 516 would impact all of the City's public parking lots; however, this bill would have a unique impact our Waterfront Parking lots, as AB 516 conflicts with Local Coastal Plan priorities for visitor-serving facilities and coastal access.

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For these reasons, the City of Santa Barbara opposes AB 516.

Sincerely,

Cathy Murillo
Mayor

cc: Assembly Member Monique Limón
Senator Hannah Beth Jackson
Dave Mullinax, League of California Cities (via email)



Please consider the environment before printing this letter.