Resolution Directing the County Manager to Remove the Current Residential Permit Parking Restrictions in Zone 24

WHEREAS, on street parking is a valuable resource available to the public at large which must be managed for the greatest public benefit; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has the authority to restrict parking on residential streets and, by ordinance, has established a Residential Permit Parking (RPP) program which delegates authority to the County Manager to establish parking restrictions on residential streets subject to certain conditions and in accordance with specified procedures; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the RPP program, among others, is to restrict out of area vehicles from parking in residential neighborhoods in order to prevent hazardous traffic conditions, reduce adverse environmental impacts, and protect residents from unreasonable burdens in gaining access to their property; and

WHEREAS, RPP parking zones have been established by the County Manager in various parts of the County, and restrictions have been imposed on parking within zones when circumstances warranted it, as provided by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, RPP restrictions were put into effect on some streets within Zone 24 in March 2016, specifically 6th Place South, 7th Street South, 7th Road South, South Florida Street, South Jefferson Street, South Illinois Street, South Harrison Street (north of 7th Street South), and South Greenbrier Street (the “Restricted Area”); and

WHEREAS, staff may have deviated from its usual practices when it imposed the restrictions in the Restricted Area, resulting in the inability of staff to verify whether vehicles were correctly recorded as “out of area,” and further, the restrictions were evaluated and imposed for the entire neighborhood rather than on a block by block basis; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of those restrictions has not achieved the objectives of the RPP program and placed an undue burden on the remaining streets and residents within Zone 24 including, but not limited to, causing residents within the zone and outside the Restricted Area to experience a severe shortage of parking within a reasonable distance from their homes while also leaving vacant numerous on-street parking spaces in the Restricted Area during the times of restricted parking; and

WHEREAS, in August 2017 the County Board endorsed the County Manager’s imposition of a moratorium on any new RPP applications or modifications to allow for a comprehensive study of the current RPP program in order to consider changes that improve the program’s efficiency, user experience, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, in light of numerous and continued parking related complaints from residents in Zone 24 outside of the Restricted Area, and notwithstanding the moratorium, the County Board directed the County Manager to explore an interim solution for the Zone 24 parking problems pending the outcome of the RPP program study; and
WHEREAS, despite diligent efforts, the County Manager has been unsuccessful in identifying an interim solution that would effectively address the parking problems within Zone 24; and

WHEREAS, because the failure of parking restrictions within the Restricted Area to meet the purposes of the RPP program, the County Board has determined that the most effective interim solution to address parking issues in Zone 24 is to rescind the existing restrictions on parking in the Restricted Area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board hereby directs the County Manager to rescind the current parking restrictions within the Restricted Area of Zone 24, effective February 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board hereby directs the County Manager to expeditiously process refunds for those households within the Restricted Area that paid for the 2018-2019 RPP materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ending the parking restrictions in the Restricted Area of Zone 24 will not preclude the residents of Zone 24 from applying for future restrictions once the County-wide RPP program study is complete, subject to such new or modified requirements of the program as may be approved as a result of the study.

Adopted by the Arlington County Board January 26, 2019