

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager *RW*

DATE: June 26, 2024

SUBJECT: **DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL REINSTITUTION OF RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT DECALS IN LIEU OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM WHICH VALIDATES RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE PERMITS BASED SOLELY UPON LICENSE PLATE SCANS.**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The City Administration ("Administration") has concerns with the potential reinstatement of residential parking permit decals (either on a mandatory or hybrid/dual basis) in lieu of the current virtual permit system and recommends that the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") provide input and direction on this item. Should the City Commission direct the Administration to move forward with a parking permit decal program in residential zones, the Administration recommends continuing to require residents to register their vehicle license plates for enforcement purposes and to maintain the integrity of the permit program for the reasons delineated in the Analysis section of this Commission Memorandum.

### **BACKGROUND**

On December 13, 2023, at the request of Commissioner David Suarez and Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the City Commission referred item C4 E to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC" or "Committee") to discuss the potential reinstatement of residential parking permit decals to identify vehicles permitted to park within a specific residential parking zone in lieu of, or in conjunction with, the current virtual permit system which exclusively validates residential parking zone status based on a scan of a vehicle's license plate.

This matter was discussed at the February 12, 2024 Transportation, Parking and Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee ("TPBPFC") meeting. The TPBPFC passed a motion expressing its opposition to the reinstatement of residential parking permit decals and advocated for the continuation of the current virtual permit system, which relies on vehicle identification via tags/license plate numbers. The TPBPFC cited the drawback of placing decals on vehicles and the benefit of applying for a permit remotely. The TPBPFC's motion was transmitted to the City Commission via Letter to Commission ("LTC") No. 062-2024 dated February 16, 2024 (Attachment A).

At the February 23, 2024 FERC meeting, the Committee discussed the reinstatement of the parking permit decal program in residential zones and unanimously agreed to forward the item to the City Commission with a favorable recommendation, citing the benefit of community policing (i.e. enabling residents to visually check for parking permits on vehicles parked in their respective

residential zones). During the FERC meeting, the Committee members discussed the potential implementation of either a mandatory paper decal program in lieu of the current virtual parking permit system which would require all registered residential parking permit holders to purchase and display a paper decal on their vehicle; or a hybrid/dual program which would maintain the virtual residential parking permit system and give residents the option to purchase and display a paper decal on their vehicle.

On June 7, 2024, the TPBPFC discussed this item a second time and passed a motion - transmitted via LTC No. 233-2024 dated June 7, 2024 (Attachment B) - reaffirming its lack of support for the reinstatement of residential parking permit decals in lieu of the current virtual permit system. The TPBPFC motion states "The City Commission, should they opt to reintroduce decals in lieu of the current system, is

strongly advised by this body to pursue a comprehensive and streamlined approach. This entails harnessing technology-driven and automated solutions alongside the proposed reinstatement of decals to register and authenticate residential parking permits. Such an initiative aims to streamline the registration process for residents and verification of current residential parking permits by Parking Enforcement, enhancing overall efficiency and convenience for all."

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Prior Residential Parking Permit Decal System**

Prior to 2016, the City of Miami Beach ("City") utilized a residential parking permit decal system and a visitor scratch-hang tag system which required residents or visitors to scratch-off the correct date on the hang tag and display the visitor permit in the rear-view mirror of the visitor's vehicle. However, the Administration identified various concerns and challenges associated with the decal/scratch tag residential parking permit program, from a customer service, operational, and enforcement perspective, and ultimately moved toward a virtual/paperless and automated parking permit system. Some of the Administration's concerns with the residential parking permit decal/scratch-hang tag system are further described below.

The issuance of paper decals for residents and scratch-hang tags for visitors required residents to either pay for and retrieve the decals/scratch tags in person at the City's Customer Service Center or mail a payment and receive the decals/scratch tags by mail. Furthermore, additional City staff time was required to handle the influx of customers and the processing of mail orders. Mailing the decals and/or scratch tags presented issues with delays; reports of lost, damaged, or stolen decals; and residents neglecting to affix the new decal on their vehicle prior to the expiration date of the old decal, and consequently, being towed. Similarly, there were numerous issues with scratch tags not properly scratched by visitors or hung on the visitors' vehicles, thereby resulting in invalid citations or unnecessary tows.

Additionally, the visitor scratch-hang tag system resulted in some fraudulent activities. For example, the City staff discovered that some residents would purchase scratch tags (at a cost of \$3 each) in advance and re-sell them on the internet at a much higher rate, especially during high impact periods and major special events in the City.

With regard to enforcement, the paper decal/scratch tag system required parking enforcement officers to conduct a visual inspection of the zone number, matching license plate number, and decal or scratch tag expiration date. This visual inspection required by parking enforcement officers was prone to human error that led to the issuance of numerous invalid citations and unnecessarily towed vehicles.

In some instances, residential parking permits would be revoked by the City, which required a notification to parking enforcement officers with the permit numbers and/or scratch tag numbers in order to identify the unauthorized decals and/or scratch tags and tow the vehicle(s) as necessary.

#### Current Virtual Residential Parking Permit System

In 2016, to improve efficiency, increase transparency and accountability, and keep pace with technology, innovations and best practices in the parking industry, the Administration transitioned from a residential parking permit decal and visitor scratch-hang tag system to a paperless/virtual and automated parking permit system (XParking) based on vehicle license plate tags. The virtual permits are enforced by the Parking Department through the use of License Plate Reader (“LPR”) systems. In addition to utilizing new technology and improving convenience for our residents and visitors, the current X Parking virtual parking permit system addressed a number of issues that existed with the prior residential parking decal and visitor scratch-hang tag system.

XParking enables residents to quickly obtain and renew parking permits from the comfort of their homes or any other location. Additionally, XParking allows residents to remotely purchase virtual visitor parking permits online and in real-time - a significant improvement over the prior visitor scratch-hang tag system. The current virtual parking permit system simplified both the purchase and enforcement of residential zone permits and consequently reduced the number of authorized vehicles being towed.

The current virtual parking permit system requires that parking enforcement officers scan the license plates, after the correct zone is selected on the officers’ tablets, to verify possession of a residential zone permit. This system automatically determines whether the vehicle has a valid parking permit. Furthermore, the current virtual parking permit system allows for the immediate cancellation of permits online, facilitates enforcement through the use of technology, and reduces human error.

#### Additional Enforcement Benefits of the Current Virtual Parking Permit Program in Residential Zones

- Virtual permits require the scanning of vehicle license plates which creates a database that can be queried for Police-related matters.
- Scanning of license plates provides a measure of employee productivity and accountability as the number of scans by parking enforcement officers is currently tracked and monitored by Parking Department staff to evaluate employee performance.
- While scanning vehicle tags, the Miami-Dade County database is simultaneously checked identifying scofflaws (individuals who have accumulated large debt in unpaid parking citations). Once scofflaws are identified, the City receives the entirety of the scofflaw revenue, regardless of where the citations were originally issued. During the first two (2) months of calendar year 2024, City parking enforcement officers identified 84 scofflaws. Of these, 82 individuals ultimately paid outstanding fines totaling \$36,509. For calendar year 2023, 589 scofflaws were identified, and of these, 524 individuals paid outstanding fines in the amount of \$239,873.

The FERC expressed a desire for residents to be able to visually enforce residential parking in their neighborhoods. While a residential parking decal program would allow residents to visually identify permitted and unpermitted vehicles, the implementation of such a program would not include permitted visitor vehicles (approximately 70,000 visitor permits are issued annually by the City) unless a visitor decal program is implemented in conjunction with a residential decal program. It is worth noting that the current virtual parking permit system allows registered

residents to electronically verify - via the City's virtual permit application system on their smartphone - if a vehicle (residential or visitor) is legally permitted to park in a residential zone.

**Mandatory vs Hybrid/Dual Residential Parking Permit Decal Program**

As discussed under the Background section of this Commission Memorandum, the FERC discussed the potential of implementing a hybrid/dual program which would maintain the virtual residential parking permit system and give residents the option to purchase and display a paper decal on their vehicle. Below is a table summarizing the advantages and disadvantages of a mandatory residential parking permit decal program and a hybrid/dual residential parking permit decal program.

**Mandatory Residential Parking Permit Decal Program**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Residents would be able to enforce parking in residential zones by visually inspecting parked vehicles for decals without having to log-in to their virtual parking permit accounts (note: this excludes visitor permits).	Inconvenience to residents – requires residents to either pick-up their decal in person or have their decal mailed, and to affix the decal to their vehicle.
	Affects parking enforcement supervisors' ability to track officers' enforcement efforts/productivity.
	Increase in annual operating expenses of \$306,000 in year 1 and \$352,000 in year 2.

**Hybrid/Dual Residential Parking Permit Decal Program**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Residents would be able to enforce parking in residential zones by visually inspecting parked vehicles for decals without having to log-in to their virtual parking permit accounts (note: this excludes visitor permits).	Inconvenience to residents - requires residents to either pick-up their decal in person or have their decal mailed, and to affix the decal to their vehicle.
Residents would have the option to opt-out of the decal program and continue to use the current virtual permit parking system.	Fewer registered vehicles would display decals and, thus, not visually enforceable by residents.
	Increase in annual operating expenses of \$228,000 in year 1 and \$263,000 in year 2.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Based on discussions with the Finance Department, both residential parking permit decal program options (mandatory and hybrid/dual) would require additional staffing at the City's Customer Service Center as well as additional funds for the purchase and mailing of the paper decals. The estimated annual fiscal impact for each program is as follows:

1. Mandatory Decal Program - \$306,000 in year one (1): includes three (3) full-time Customer Service Representatives at a total cost (salary plus benefits) of \$236,000; plus \$70,000 for issuance of parking decals in year one (1).
2. Hybrid/Dual Program - \$228,000 in year one (1) (includes two (2) full-time Customer Service Representatives at a total cost (salary plus benefits) of \$158,000; plus \$70,000

for issuance of parking decals in year one (1).

Note the cost estimates provided above are based on issuing decals to all current virtual residential parking permit holders in the City (approximately 10,000 permittees). It does not reflect the number of residents that might opt-out of the decal program (under the hybrid/dual program) nor does it reflect the cost for the implementation of a decal program for the proposed North Beach Restricted Residential Parking Permit ("RRPP") zones, if approved by the City Commission.

**Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?**  
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on . See BIE at:  
<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Should the City Commission direct the Administration to move forward with the implementation of a residential parking decal permit program, either mandatory or hybrid/dual, approval of an operating budget enhancement would be required as part of the ongoing Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget process to fund the operating costs associated with such program.

**CONCLUSION**

Since 2016, the City has been utilizing a virtual parking permit system, including in residential zones, based on license plate registrations and LPRs for enforcement. The value of a virtual parking permit system is that it increases expediency, improves customer service, and helps to maintain staff productivity and the integrity of residential permitted zones.

The Administration believes that a residential parking permit decal program would decrease efficiency, limit transparency, and increase administrative costs. The Administration recommends that the potential reinstatement of a residential parking permit decal program, whether on a mandatory or hybrid/dual basis, should be discussed by the City Commission for input and direction.

Should the City Commission direct the Administration to move forward with a residential parking permit decal program, the Administration recommends a hybrid/dual program which would continue to require residents to register their vehicle license plates for enforcement purposes and to maintain the integrity of the permit program, while giving residents the option to obtain a residential parking decal permit.

**Applicable Area**

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

Yes

No

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s): N/A

**Department**

Parking

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner David Suarez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

# MIAMI BEACH

REGISTRATION

FEB 21 2024

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

NO. LTC # **062-2024**

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: *For* Rafael Granado, City Clerk

**REGIS BARBOU**



DATE: February 16, 2024

SUBJECT: **TPBPF Committee Motion – Citywide Limit to Total of Residential Parking Permits per Household & Continuation of Virtual Permits**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with correspondence received from the Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee.

<sup>DS</sup>  
RW

<sup>DS</sup>  
MB

RW/MB

- C: Eric Carpenter, Deputy City Manager
- Mark Taxis, Assistant City Manager
- Rickelle Williams, Assistant City Manager
- Monica Beltran, Parking Director
- Jose Gonzalez, Transportation and Mobility Director

## *Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee*

Marcia Duprat Lepori, Chair  
Linda Kolko, Vice-Chair

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee

DATE: February 16, 2024

**Members:**

Patricia Henao  
Joe Saunders  
Eva Dias  
Esteban Procelli  
Amy Rabin  
Harvey Burstein  
Cynthia Esquivel  
Liliana Martinez  
Akil Lester  
Peter Matos

SUBJECT: Citywide Limit to Total of Residential Parking Permits per Household & Continuation of Virtual Permits

*Members Present: Marcia Duprat Lepori; Linda Kolko; Cynthia Esquivel; Amy Rabin; Patricia Henao; Esteban Porcelli; Harvey Burstein; Joe Saunders; Eva Dias; Liliana Martinez; Akil Lester & Peter Matos*

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Commission:

The Transportation, Parking and Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee (TPBPFC) held its hybrid meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024, and passed the below motion:

**Citywide Limit to Total of Residential Parking Permits per Household & Continuation of Virtual Permits**

The Transportation, Parking, and Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee passed a motion supporting the proposal below, with the following conditions:

- Limit the total number of Residential Parking Permits to (2) per household for residents that reside in eligible properties within a permitted residential zone.
- Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to review and approval by the Parking Director.
- Continue use of "Virtual Permits" instead of issuance of decals. Permitholder vehicles would continue to be identified by their tag/license plate numbers.

As an advisory Committee, we urge the Mayor and City Commission to support this motion.

Sincerely,

Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee

# Attachment B

## MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

NO. LTC # 233-2024

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

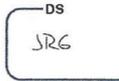
FROM: Rafael Granado, City Clerk



DATE: June 7, 2024

SUBJECT: **TPBPF Committee Motion – Reinstitution of Residential Parking Permit Decals**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with correspondence received from the Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee.

DM/JRG

C: Eric Carpenter, Deputy City Manager  
Mark Taxis, Assistant City Manager  
David Martinez, Interim Assistant City Manager  
José R. González, Transportation & Mobility Director/Interim Parking Director

# *Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee*

Eva Dias, Chair  
Linda Kolko, Vice-Chair

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee

DATE: June 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Reinstitution of Residential Parking Permit Decals

**Members:**

Patricia Henao  
Joe Saunders  
Esteban Procelli  
Amy Rabin  
Harvey Burstein  
Akil Lester  
Peter Matos  
Peter Ballas-Bograd

*Members Present: Linda Kolko, Amy Rabin, Esteban Procelli, Harvey Burstein, Joe Saunders, Eva Dias, Peter Matos, Akil Lester, and Peter Ballas-Bograd*

*Members Absent: Patricia Henao (attended virtually)*

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Commission:

The Transportation, Parking, and Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee (TPBPFC) held its hybrid meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024, and passed the below motion:

**Reinstitution of Residential Parking Permit Decals**

The Transportation, Parking, and Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee passed a motion regarding the City Commission's potential approval of reinstating the use of Residential Parking Permit Decals.

In a letter addressed to the Commission on February 16, 2024 (*ref. LTC 062-2024*), the Committee voiced its opposition to this proposal and advocated for the continuation of the current "Virtual Permits" system, which relies on vehicle identification via tags/license plate numbers.

The City Commission, should they opt to reintroduce decals in lieu of the current system, is strongly advised by this body to pursue a comprehensive and streamlined approach. This entails harnessing technology-driven and automated solutions alongside the proposed reinstatement of decals to register and authenticate residential parking permits. Such an initiative aims to streamline the registration process for residents and verification of current residential parking permits by Parking Enforcement, enhancing overall efficiency and convenience for all.

As an advisory Committee, we urge the Mayor and City Commission to support this motion.

Sincerely,

Transportation, Parking & Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities Committee