



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

24-0090

Agenda Date: 2/15/2024

2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

DPS 24-02

TITLE Evaluate Municipal Code Section 10.16.120 (Use of Streets or Public Parking Facilities for Storage of Vehicles Prohibited) and Modernize Parking Requirements and Restrictions

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Department of Public Safety

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Department of Public Works

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers: Sell, Melton, Din, Klein, Mehlinger, and Srinivasan

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this Study?

At the November 28, 2023 City Council meeting, Councilmember Sell sponsored a Study Issue to address the limited availability of parking on some public streets. She requested an evaluation of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code (SMC) to determine alternative options and best practices utilized by surrounding jurisdictions. Councilmember Melton proposed a similar study to strengthen and modernize SMC Section 10.16.120 (*Use of streets or public parking facilities for storage of vehicles prohibited*). Both councilmembers agreed to combine the concepts of the two studies into one, given the similarities. Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Din, and Councilmembers Melton, Mehlinger, and Srinivasan co-sponsored the Study Issue.

What are the key elements of the Study?

The Study will compare SMC language and enforcement practices and policies with other nearby municipalities. The Study will evaluate the effectiveness and enforcement challenges of SMC Section 10.16.120 *Use of streets or public parking facilities for storage of vehicles prohibited*. The Study would likely result in recommendations to strengthen and modernize SMC Section 10.16.120.

Department of Public Safety staff receive regular complaints from residents about on-street parking in violation of SMC Section 10.16.120. While complaints about parking are not a unique problem to Sunnyvale, enforcement of the seventy-two hour or more restriction is sometimes challenging and causes confusion with the public. SMC Section 10.16.120 states that "*Pushing or moving a vehicle a short distance or attempting to rub away the tire marking will not be considered compliance with this section. Additionally, successive acts of parking shall be presumed to be a single act of parking within the meaning of this section when the vehicle is moved merely for the purpose of avoiding the parking*

limitations prescribed by this section.” Provisions of SMC Section 10.16.120 code, such as “*successive acts of parking*” and “*moving a vehicle a short distance*”, will be evaluated and compared with other nearby municipalities. Additionally, staff will evaluate an option to add a specified distance a vehicle needs to move within a seventy-two-hour period. Surrounding jurisdictions will be contacted and best practices will be considered.

The Study will evaluate permit parking for oversized vehicles. In addition, it will consider restricting oversized vehicles parked near schools and parks. Staff will review potential benefits and challenges, including legal challenges, associated with regulating oversized vehicles. Other jurisdictions will be contacted to determine if they have similar regulations and restrictions.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$50,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement

Staff would hire a consultant to conduct the Study. The consultant would survey other jurisdictions on parking regulations and conduct community outreach to gauge support for or against an amendment to SMC 10.16.120, oversized vehicle permit parking, and a restriction on oversized vehicles parked near schools and parks, if proposed as part of the Study.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. The Study would include an assessment of potential and anticipated costs associated with implementation and enforcement of amending SMC 10.16.120, oversized vehicle permit parking, and a restriction on oversized vehicles parked near schools and parks.

EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION

Council-Approved Work Plan: No
Council Study Session: No
Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: No

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2024 Study Issues Workshop.

Modernizing parking requirements could potentially improve shared parking practices throughout the City. This Study supports General Plan Goal SN-3 *Safe and secure city. Ensure a safe and secure environment for people and property in the community by providing effective Public Safety response and prevention and education services.*

Prepared by: Ava Fanucchi, Deputy Chief
Reviewed by: Phan S. Ngo, Director, Department of Public Safety
Reviewed by: Chip Taylor, Director, Department of Public Works
Reviewed by: Jaqui Guzmán, Deputy City Manager
Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager