

ITEM	7
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	27
COUNCIL MEETING	90/04/09

RE: DESIGNATED PARKING FOR THE DISABLED

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Director Planning & Building Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 MARCH 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION

SUBJECT: DESIGNATED PARKING FOR THE DISABLED

PURPOSE: To provide Council with information regarding parking spaces designated for use by disabled persons.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council endorse the disabled persons parking placard of the Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of B.C. as the required identification to use parking spaces designated for the disabled in Burnaby.
2. THAT Council approve the public awareness raising activities outlined in Section 7.0 of this report.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to SPARC of B.C. and to the Ministry Solicitor General, Motor Vehicle Branch, Policy Development Department, Victoria, B.C.

R E P O R T

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At its regular meeting of 1989 June 05, Council endorsed an action plan for National Access Awareness Week (NAAW) 1990. Included in the action plan was a proposal to investigate the feasibility of a bylaw to enforce designated parking for the disabled.

In recognition of NAAW 1988, a National Access Awareness Week Advisory Committee (NAAWAC) was formed in Burnaby. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to assist staff to assess the status of Municipal efforts to address the needs of the disabled. Membership of the Advisory Committee includes representation from the disabled community, as well as Municipal staff from Planning & Building Inspection, Parks & Recreation and Health Departments, and Burnaby School District Staff.

The issue of the enforcement of designated stalls was first raised by the Advisory Committee in 1988, and was carried forward into the 1989 NAAW action plan. The major issue related to parking is the misuse of designated stalls. Designated stalls are sometimes used by able-bodied persons who do not require the extra space and proximity to building entrances provided by the stalls.

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This report examines the Municipal role in encouraging proper use of parking stalls designated for the disabled.

2.0 DESIGNATED PARKING STALLS

Designated parking stalls for the disabled provide extra width for wheelchair users who must transfer in and out of their vehicles, and provide proximity to building entrances for persons with physical disabilities.

Parking stalls designated for use by the disabled in Burnaby are provided for in private and public developments under the provisions of Section 3.7 of the B.C. Building Code. One designated space is required for the first 50 to 100 parking spaces. One additional designated space is required for each additional 100 off-street spaces.

In addition, the Building Code sets out design guidelines for the provision of parking stalls for disabled persons. Parking stalls for the disabled must be 3.7 meters wide, have a firm, slip-resistant and level surface, be located close to and accessible to the building entrance, and be clearly marked as for the use of the disabled.

Currently, there are no designated on-street parking stalls for the disabled in Burnaby. It would appear that on-street parking for the disabled can be provided for under the Burnaby Street and Traffic Bylaw. The Engineering Department advises that where there is a specific, demonstrated need, the Engineering Department would assist the designation of on-street parking for the disabled.

3.0 SPARC PARKING PLACARD PROGRAM

In 1974, to help encourage proper use of designed parking stalls, the Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of B.C. started a parking program for persons with disabilities. The program began by issuing vehicle parking decals to persons with disabilities. In 1982 the decal was replaced with a placard showing the international symbol of access.

In 1985, an updated placard showing the international symbol of access (white stylized outline of a wheelchair on a blue background) was introduced in cooperation with the City of Vancouver. The current placard has an identification number which is registered to the disabled person that provides for improved monitoring of placard use.

Parking placards are issued to persons with permanent or temporary disabilities. Placards for permanent disabilities are valid for a period of three years. Placards for temporary disabilities have an expiry date based on a physician's assessment. A fee of \$6 is charged for the placard (except in cases of hardship). The placard can be transferred between vehicles used by the disabled person. A copy of the SPARC application form for the parking placard is attached as Appendix I.

The SPARC placard has become the accepted identification for "legitimate" use of disabled parking stalls in most areas of B.C., and is recognized in other provinces across Canada. Approximately 8,000 permanent SPARC placards have been issued. The SPARC placards are used throughout the Province with nearly 80% of the placards issued in areas outside of the City of Vancouver.

A survey conducted by SPARC of B.C. found that 17 B.C. municipalities had adopted the SPARC placard as the required identification to use designated on-street parking spaces. Fines for parking in designated spaces without the proper identification ranged from \$15 to \$100. Were on-street parking to be designated for the disabled in Burnaby, it appears that the fine would be that assessed for illegal parking - \$25 reduced to \$15 for early payment.

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4.0 MUNICIPAL REGULATION

A review of municipal authority to regulate designated parking stalls determined that Burnaby may:

- . Provide for and regulate on-street parking stalls for the disabled.

General provisions of the Burnaby Street and Traffic Bylaw would appear to allow Council through the Director Engineering to designate on-street parking stalls for use by the disabled. Thus the Director Engineering could designate on-street parking stalls for the disabled where there is a demonstrated need.

- . Require off-street parking spaces for the disabled in private developments.

This is provided for in Burnaby under the terms of the Building Code as discussed in Section 2.0 of this report.

- . Ticket or impound vehicles using designated parking on municipal streets that do not display the proper identification.

Again, it would appear that were on-street parking for the disabled to be provided in Burnaby, the misuse of the designated stalls could be discouraged through the existing regulations for illegal parking provided for in the Burnaby Street and Traffic Bylaw. Currently, designated parking at Municipal facilities is monitored by the Municipal facility/department responsible for the lot.

The review did not identify the authority for the Municipality to regulate the use of designated parking stalls on private property. The use of designated parking stalls for the disabled on private lots is controlled at the discretion of the private lot owner or manager. The majority of designated parking spaces in Burnaby are provided for in private lots.

5.0 PROVINCIAL INITIATIVE

It is our understanding that the Motor Vehicle Branch is considering an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act to allow for the regulation of the use of designated parking provided for on private lots. The amendment would enable a Peace Officer to ticket motorists or tow vehicles using designated parking spaces on private lots without proper identification. The proposed amendment would likely result in the adoption of the SPARC parking placard program as the standard form of identification for disabled users of designated parking across the Province.

Burnaby R.C.M.P. advise that if amendments are made to the Motor Vehicle Act relative to the regulation of designated parking in private places, enforcement would be on a demand basis by regular members of the force. Burnaby R.C.M.P. also advise that at this time Burnaby Bylaw Parking Patrolmen do not have Peace Officer status which would permit them to enforce the Motor Vehicle Act.

6.0 MUNICIPAL ROLE

The Municipality can assist in encouraging the proper use of designated parking spaces by endorsing a standard form of identification for disabled users of designated spaces in Burnaby.

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In 1985, the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) endorsed the logos and placard system developed by SPARC. The objective of the UBCM initiative was to avoid a situation where placards issued in one municipality would not be recognized in another.

We would recommend that Council endorse the parking placard program developed by SPARC of B.C. for use in Burnaby. Endorsement of the SPARC program would:

- . establish a standard in Burnaby that would assist the public, business community and Municipal employees in monitoring the use of designated spaces in the community
- . further promote the use of the SPARC placard as the accepted form of identification for disabled users of designated parking spaces
- . assist in preparing Burnaby for possible changes to the Motor Vehicle Act that may result in the regulation of the use of designated spaces in private parking lots.

7.0 PUBLIC AWARENESS

If Council endorses the SPARC parking placard program as recommended, staff would undertake to raise public awareness of the program.

Staff would include notice of Council's endorsement in the next issue of Information Burnaby. The notice would contain information on the SPARC parking placard and a reminder that designated parking stalls are a necessity for people with disabilities. In addition, staff would write to the managers of Burnaby's shopping centres to request that they accept the SPARC placard as the required identification to use designated spaces in their parking lots.

The Advisory Committee anticipates that the endorsement by Council of the SPARC parking placard program will increase public awareness of the importance of designated stalls for the disabled, and encourage use of designated stalls only with the proper identification.

The Advisory Committee has been active in promoting the proper use of designated stalls in Burnaby. As part of National Access Awareness Week 1989, the members of the Advisory Committee and some Municipal staff distributed a notice, Appendix II attached, to people using designated parking for the disabled without the accepted placard. In addition, staff, at the suggestion of the Advisory Committee, wrote to local newspapers to request that they publish a public service advertisement designed to encourage motorists to respect designated parking stalls.

Staff will continue to monitor the use of designated parking stalls in conjunction with the Advisory Committee. If the misuse of designated parking stalls remains an active problem in Burnaby, staff will investigate further the feasibility of more direct enforcement of designated parking stalls at both public and private parking lots.

LP
LP/jp

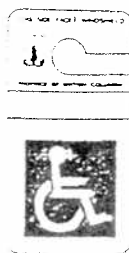
A.L. Parr
A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

Attachments

- cc: Director Engineering (Attn. Supervisor Traffic)
Director Administrative & Community Services
O.I.C. R.C.M.P.
Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Medical Health Officer

APPLICATION FORM

Parking Placard Program



For People with Disabilities

Since 1975, SPARC of B.C. has been issuing an automobile identification symbol for people requiring parking stalls designated for people with disabilities.

The updated placard, first issued in September 1985, is now required by City of Vancouver By-Laws and in many other municipalities throughout B.C. Vehicles not displaying this placard may be ticketed or towed.

The placard is portable and is to be hung from the rear-view mirror only when the vehicle is parked. **The placard can only be used when the registered holder is leaving the vehicle.** Privileges will be revoked for misuse of the placard.

One placard per person will normally be issued except to owners or frequent users of more than one vehicle. Placards issued for permanent disabilities must be renewed every three years (based on date of issue).

Please allow 4 weeks for delivery of placard.

September 1989

To be filled out by:
PERSON WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITY
Please print clearly

LAST NAME	
FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL
ADDRESS	
CITY	
POSTAL CODE	
HOME PHONE	
WORK PHONE	
TYPE OF MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT	
I agree to be responsible for the appropriate use of this placard. If this placard is mis-used in any way, I agree to forgo the privilege of using it and will return it to SPARC of B.C. upon written notice.	
SIGNATURE	DATE

PHYSICIAN

PLEASE CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE BOXES

- has lost the use of one more lower extremities
- has significant limitation in the use of lower extremities
- has a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility
- is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device
- suffers from lung disease to such an extent that her/his forced (respiratory) expiratory volume 1 second when measured by spirometry is less than 1 liter or her/his arterial oxygen tension (pO₂) is less than 60 mm/Hg on room air at rest

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- is impaired by cardiovascular disease to the extent that her/his functional limitations are classified in severity as
 - CLASS III: marked limitation of physical activity; comfortable at rest; ordinary physical activity without discomfort; ordinary physical activity causes fatigue, palpitation, dyspnea or anginal pain.
 - CLASS IV: inability to carry on any physical activity without discomfort; symptoms of cardiac insufficiency or of the anginal syndrome may be present even at rest, discomfort is increased by physical activity
- is blind to such an extent that her/his central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye, with corrective lenses, as measured by the Snellen Test, or visual acuity that is greater than 20/200, but with a limitation in the field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle not greater than 20 degrees

Please check one of the following:

- temporary disability

Date of anticipated recovery

A temporary placard will not be issued without an anticipated date of recovery.

- permanent disability

PHYSICIAN'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

Physician's signature
original signatures only please—stamps and photocopies will not be accepted

Date: _____

SPARC

SPARC of B.C. is a non-profit society, not a government agency. Provincial and Civic funding cover only a portion of operating costs connected with the Parking Placard Program for People with Disabilities. The City of Vancouver has determined that a fee of \$6 be charged (except in cases of hardship).

In addition to the placard fee, donation and/or membership contributions are appreciated. *It is not necessary to take out a SPARC membership to obtain a parking placard but we do welcome any support that you can give.* Membership fees and donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued. For information about our activities, contact SPARC.

- ONE PLACARD (\$6)

- TWO PLACARDS (\$12)

The following are tax deductible:

- DONATION TO SPARC

- *MEMBERSHIP (\$20 and up)
* Membership does not include

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make cheques and money orders payable to **SPARC of B.C.**

Mail application and payment to:
SPARC of B.C.
(Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia)
#106—2182 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, British Columbia V6K 2N4

N.B. Form is reduced to 80% of original size.

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THIS IS NOT
A TICKET

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This is a reminder
That you are parked....

- [] In a space reserved for people with disabilities
- [] Too close to a vehicle to allow a wheelchair in between
- [] Without a legally enforceable placard

These facilities are not just a convenience for people with disabilities, they are a necessity.

If you are not disabled
your consideration in leaving these spaces free would be appreciated.

If you are disabled
you may apply for a Parking Placard from SPARC of B.C.

This notice does not invalidate Federal, Provincial or Municipal tickets.

Printed as a public service by:

SPARC

SPARC OF B.C. - Social Planning & Research Council of British Columbia, #106-2182 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6K 2N4 (604) 736-4367