

# Item 24 LATE BACKUP

## Unreserved Parking Implementation

The following information is being provided to the employees of Travis County and the Commissioners Court to address questions and concerns regarding the implementation of an unreserved or “zoned” parking policy.

### Implementation Timeline

The following is a proposed implementation timeline. This is subject to FMD’s completion of garage improvements by September 2014. Should that schedule be accelerated, this schedule will be accelerated the same number of days.

#### **1. Garage Preparation – *will be completed by September 2014***

In order to effectively implement parking, the following upgrades/changes will be made to the following garages. These items have already been approved in the FY14 budget:

##### A. N. Granger Garage –

- Lighting at Stairwells and Elevator Landings - \$17,000
- Paint Selected Areas and Piping - \$36,200
- Provide Improved Wayfinding for ADA Compliance - \$12,200
- Patch and Repair Spalled Concrete and Plaster - \$8,100
- Add Stairwell Ventilation - \$16,096
- Access Card Entry Gates - \$40,000
- Cameras and Call Stations - \$35,600
- Card Readers on Stairwell Doors - \$48,000
- Elevator issues – per FMD, Granger “elevator was upgraded in 2008. In past three weeks [as of 2/20/14] it has experienced several days of outages as our contractor worked to solve a problem with the elevator controller. Contractor is confident it is fully restored to normal operation and should be reliable. Of course, the garage only has the one elevator, so no redundancy.”

##### B. San Antonio Garage -

- Provide Improved Wayfinding for ADA Compliance - \$10,800
- Patch and Repair Spalled Concrete and Plaster - \$6,800
- Add Stairwell Ventilation - \$8,000
- Access Card Entry Gates - \$60,000
- Cameras and Call Stations - \$31,200

#### **2. Issue parking cards and hangtags (where applicable) to employees with current assigned parking-- upon completion of garage improvements.**

- The Parking Coordinator will contact employees who are satisfied with their parking location to receive their access card or hangtag for the garage or lot.

#### **3. Address location preferences**

- Employees who do not currently have access to parking in garages or lots nearest their workplace will be given the option to transfer. We expect to be able to meet all employee requests, but if we cannot, transfer requests will be based first on security and second on tenure. Access cards and hangtags will be distributed to these employees once a location is determined.

#### **4. Audit Parking after location changes—2 weeks**

- Garages and lots will be audited to benchmark utilization and determine available capacity prior to any waitlist employee allocations.

#### **5. Add Round 1 off waiting list**

- Based on utilization found in audit, very conservatively begin allocating waitlisted employees to parking lots and garages

#### **6. Monitor Round 1 issuance—3 weeks**

- Parking will again be audited after the first round of employees is allocated to lots and garages to ensure adequate availability of parking. Enforcement issues will be evaluated and addressed at this time.

#### **7. Continue waitlisted parking allocation**

- Based upon the results of the audits after Round 1 issuance, waitlisted employees will continue to be allocated to lots and garages with available capacity. To meet best practices, management will work to ensure 5 to 10 percent vacancy to avoid congestion.

### **Security**

- Security zone: as with courts-related parking in the past, secure parking will be provided for judges in a secured subzone of the San Antonio Garage;
- Garage security upgrades (see section 1 above)
- San Antonio Garage: There is no security concern regarding garage visibility. Per TCSO, “the inmate windows at the Travis County Jail in the inmate areas which are exposed to the external walls all have had the glass frosted. There are a few lower level staff office windows that are not frosted but they are not accessible to inmates.”
- Employee safety:
  - Employees can request a Sheriff’s Deputy escort until 1 AM
  - Employees who have been threatened are asked to report the threat to TCSO and are then provided the appropriate level of security pursuant to the nature of the threat
  - Both the County Attorney’s and District Attorney’s offices have sworn peace officers (Investigators) than can also escort individuals to their vehicles. These peace officers are licensed to carry their firearms in any County facility
  - There are lockboxes for firearms available in many county facilities. This will allow an employee to retrieve their personal licensed firearm prior to leaving the facility.

- Employees who do not feel safe in their current county parking garage or lot may request a transfer to a different garage or lot in accordance with this implementation plan.
- It is widely recommended that those who are at risk of or fear stalking should vary their routines. (For more information, visit: <http://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center/help-for-victims/stalking-safety-planning>) Note: zoned parking can in many cases enhance employee security, particularly if employees do not use the same space each day.

### **Response to Grandfathering Assigned Parking**

There have been some proposals that suggest a “grandfathering” or phased approach to zoned parking. The reasons that a grandfathered approach will not work are as follows:

- Fairness and equity: To ensure that we clear the waitlist, we must open up enough spaces
- Timeline: To convert to unreserved parking with a grandfather clause, successful implementation would be well beyond our facilities planning horizon. It would be impossible to tell how long we would have to maintain reserved parking. It could be another 20 years before we would move entirely to zoned/unreserved parking.
- Inefficiency: Our decision making would be based on status quo instead of maximizing resource efficiency. In downtown alone, we are building new offices for the District Attorney and a new courthouse. We are one of the fastest growing regions in the country and we are facing serious affordability issues. It costs approximately \$15,000- \$30,000 per space to construct garage parking not including operations and maintenance. The Commissioners Court must be mindful of this.