



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

March 30, 2009

Honorable Richard Conlin
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Conlin:

I am pleased to transmit the attached proposed resolution that repeals Resolution 28941, which contains “Policies and Procedures Concerning Implementation of Residential Parking Zones (RPZs)”. Resolution 28941 was adopted fifteen years ago, in 1994, after a policy review of the RPZ program. Since that time, Seattle has changed dramatically with population growth, neighborhood development, and major transit improvements.

Starting in late 2007, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) initiated another major RPZ policy review with the objectives of reducing neighborhood traffic impacts from large parking generators; supporting mixed-use neighborhoods and local business districts; continuing to reduce energy use and vehicle emissions; and providing customer-oriented program improvements.

As part of the recent RPZ policy review, SDOT has prepared both the attached proposed resolution and an accompanying proposed council bill with substantive and house-keeping changes to the Seattle Municipal Code. SDOT is currently preparing a Director’s Rule that contains updated RPZ program procedures, including topics such as permit eligibility, zone creation and modification, permits issuance to businesses and institutions in certain areas, community engagement, and other related procedures.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Mary Catherine Snyder with SDOT at 206-684-8110 or marycatherine.snyder@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,

GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council

RESOLUTION _____

1
2 A RESOLUTION relating to the Restricted Parking Zone program to repeal Resolution 28941,
3 which contained Policies and Procedures Concerning the Implementation of Residential
4 Parking Zones.

5 WHEREAS, Resolution 28941, adopted in 1994 and developed by Seattle Engineering
6 Department and a Citizen Task Force, set procedures for the restricted parking zone
7 program after a policy review in the early 1990s; and

8 WHEREAS, several of these policies and procedures are now out of date given changes in
9 Seattle's population growth, neighborhood development, and major transit investments in
10 the subsequent fifteen years; and

11 WHEREAS, as of March 2009, Seattle has 27 Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs) that operate
12 seven days a week on varying days and hours, and the Seattle Department of
13 Transportation (SDOT) issues approximately 17,000 RPZ permits annually; and

14 WHEREAS, starting in 2007, SDOT initiated a major policy review to redesign the RPZ
15 program in a manner that better achieves the City's goals in areas of parking
16 management, transportation, economic development, social equity, and sustainability;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, in a companion Council Bill, SDOT proposed to amend the RPZ program to better
19 support the following four objectives: reduce traffic impacts to neighborhoods from
20 commuters who park on the street near large parking demand generators; support mixed-
21 use neighborhoods and local business districts by creating a pilot program for businesses
22 and institutions and by broadening a community engagement program with citizens;
23 continue to encourage a reduction of overall energy use and vehicle emissions by
24 discouraging non-residents from parking in areas with RPZs; and implement a program
25 with simple rules that are easily understood and clearly applied; and

26 WHEREAS, SDOT has prepared and plans to adopt a new Director's Rule, which provides
27 specifications, guidelines, and additional information for meeting the requirements of the
28 RPZ Code such as: permit eligibility, business and institution permit pilot program,
proper permit display, community engagement and technical processes for establishing,
modifying, and removing zones, and other zone administration; NOW, THEREFORE,

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE
MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

Resolution 28941, which was adopted by the City Council in 1994, is hereby repealed.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2009, and
signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

President _____ of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

City Clerk

(Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	DOF Analyst/Phone:
SDOT	Mary Catherine Snyder 4-8110	Steve Barham 3-9084

Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION relating to the Restricted Parking Zone program to repeal Resolution 28941, which contained Policies and Procedures Concerning the Implementation of Residential Parking Zones.

• **Summary of the Legislation:**

Related to the City's restricted parking zone (RPZ) program, this Resolution repeals Resolution 28941, to be replaced by a Director's Rule. The resolution is accompanied by a companion proposed council bill.

- **Background:** *(Include brief description of the purpose and context of legislation and include record of previous legislation and funding history, if applicable):*

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)'s RPZ program designates on-street parking for residents, their guests, service vehicles, and short-term customer parking to reduce traffic impacts from nearby major institutions, transit stations, and business districts. As of March 2009, SDOT maintains 27 RPZs and issues approximately 17,000 permits. The program was last reviewed in 1994 and resulted in the adoption of Resolution 28941.

Since that time, Seattle has changed dramatically with population growth, neighborhood development, and major transit improvements. Starting in 2007, SDOT initiated a major policy review to redesign the RPZ program by collecting other cities' best practices and gathering community input on the current RPZ program. SDOT found that current RPZ policy and technical requirements have, in some situations, fallen short of capturing complexities of neighborhood business and residential districts' parking issues. In mid-2008, SDOT conducted an extensive public engagement effort to gather feedback on the draft recommendations. Staff received over 500 email comments and attended 15 community meetings in and around RPZ areas.

Based on review of public comments and best parking management practices, SDOT finalized and is concurrently releasing the Final RPZ Policy Review Recommendations. This proposed Resolution will repeal a resolution that relies on outdated policies and procedures to make way for SDOT's new RPZ policies and procedures that will be forthcoming shortly in a Director's Rule.

- *Please check one of the following:*

X **This legislation does not have any financial implications.**