**Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2012**

## REPORTS

**Item No. 2 Preferential Parking for Veterans**

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1) That the City of Winnipeg provide complimentary on-street parking for Veterans on a year-round basis through the provision of Veteran specific parking coupon books;

2) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority provide complimentary parking for Veterans at the Millennium Library Parking facility on November 11th;

3) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority provide complimentary on-street parking for the length of the meter to holders of Veteran Licence Plates on the Anniversaries of D-Day, June 6th and the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9th;

4) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority continue to provide assistance with resolution of parking issues for specific events relating to veterans on a case by case basis.

**Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2012**

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee laid over the matter for sixty (60) days.

On July 11, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee laid over the matter to its meeting on September 12, 2012.

On April 18, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS Veterans have played a significant role in guaranteeing our freedom and have made a tremendous sacrifice in preserving our liberty and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS it is our solemn duty to recognize the efforts and acknowledge the generous contribution by all Veterans residing in, or visiting our City;

AND WHEREAS we should acknowledge the sacrifices of those who have served their country in a meaningful way on a daily basis;

AND WHEREAS other Canadian cities such as Saskatoon, Brandon, Prince Albert, Red Deer, Surrey, Richmond, and London have all implemented forms of free parking for Veterans;

AND WHEREAS other Canadian cities have utilized Veteran's License Plates as the criteria established to permit free parking;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Public Service explore providing free on-street metered parking for Veterans in the City of Winnipeg including the financial impact and report back to Executive Policy Committee within 90 days with a report and recommendations.

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**Title:** **Preferential Parking for Veterans.**

**Critical Path:** Executive Policy Committee, Council

## AUTHORIZATION

| Author | Department Head | CFO | CAO |
|---|---|---|---|
| C. Stewart, WPA | R. Topolniski, WPA | M Ruta | D Joshi<br>COO |

## RECOMMENDATION

1) That the City of Winnipeg provide complimentary on-street parking for Veterans on a year-round basis through the provision of Veteran specific parking coupon books;

2) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority provide complimentary parking for Veterans at the Millennium Library Parking facility on November 11th;

3) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority provide complimentary on-street parking for the length of the meter to holders of Veteran Licence Plates on the Anniversaries of D-Day, June 6th and the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9th;

4) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority continue to provide assistance with resolution of parking issues for specific events relating to veterans on a case by case basis.

## REASON FOR THE REPORT

On April 18, 2012, the Executive Policy Committee requested the Public Service explore providing free on-street metered parking for Veterans in the City of Winnipeg including the financial impact and report back to the Executive Policy Committee within 90 days.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation 1 – Based on the current number of Veterans plates (1500) issued in the Winnipeg area the financial impact of the veteran coupon book program is $38,741.30. If all potential veterans participated in the program (6000 estimated), the financial impact of the veteran coupon book program would be estimated at $160,000.00. The financial impact would come from our budget.The Agency considers this impact manageable and in the public interest. .

Recommendation 2 – As the Millennium Library facility is not normally utilized for transient parking on November 11, based on an estimated 50% usage of the program the financial impact is estimated to be $7748.00 in potential lost revenue.

Recommendation 3 – It is estimated that provision of complimentary parking on the limited basis recommended will have a minor impact on the agency's revenue.

Recommendation 4 – As the number of requests that impact regulated parking is limited there is limited impact on the agency's revenue.

## HISTORY

The Province of Manitoba instituted a Veterans Licence Plate in November of 2004 in support of the designation of 2005 as 'The Year of the Veteran' by the Federal Government. The plates are a recognition by the Province of the dedication and sacrifice of those who "served in the Canadian Forces" or peacekeeping. Veteran Licence Plates are common across Canada, with only Nunavut not offering a distinctive licence plate.

While the prevailing public perception of a veteran is either:

- one who served in either World War II or the Korean War; or
- someone who served on an overseas deployment, whether peacekeeping or Afghanistan,

the actual definition of a veteran under the guidelines issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs is any former member of the Canadian Forces who met military occupational requirements and who has been honourably released from the service. Former members of the RCMP are also eligible for Veterans Affairs benefits and fall within the definition of a veteran.

In the past the WPA has, upon request, provided preferential parking for specific events designed to recognize veterans including:

- complimentary parking at the WPA administered lots at Garry and Assiniboine and 280 Assiniboine for the Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration held at HMCS Chippawa;
- providing complimentary parking for holders of Veteran Licence Plates at the Millennium Library parking facility on November 11 to assist attendees of the ceremonies held at the Convention Centre;
- temporary lifting of timed parking restrictions in the vicinity of Minto and McGregor Armouries for commemorative services for regimental birthdays of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and Fort Garry Horse. As commemorative services are normally held on Sundays, requests have rarely been submitted.

The recent sale of City of Winnipeg surface parking lots in the vicinity of HMCS Chippawa has resulted in the WPA no longer being able to provide complimentary parking to veterans of the Royal Canadian Navy and Merchant Navy for the Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration.

**Veteran Licence Plate Eligibility**

The eligibility requirements for the issuance of veterans licence plates in most Canadian jurisdictions are similar to those outlined by Veterans Affairs, with one significant difference – most jurisdictions allow still serving members of military and police forces who meet the other eligibility requirements to receive the plates. In Manitoba, the following groups qualify for Veteran Licence Plates:

- those who served in the Canadian Forces, allied forces, Ferry Command or the Merchant Navy during World War II or the Korean War;
- retired or still serving members of the Canadian Forces, regular or reserve, who have completed at least 1095 days (3 years) of paid service; or
- members of the Canadian Forces, allied forces, the RCMP or another Canadian police force who have served on NATO or United Nations operations.

The only fee is a $5 administrative fee paid to the Royal Canadian Legion for processing the application and confirming that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria and there is no limitation on the number of plates that a person can apply for and receive.

While at the current time there are 1500 Veteran Licence Plates registered within Winnipeg and the immediate area, the eligibility criteria means that there are currently in excess of 6200 potential Veteran Licence Plate holders.

**Practice in other Cities**

As Veteran Licence Plates are present in all Canadian jurisdictions except Nunavut, the practice in other Canadian cities was reviewed. As the attached chart shows, the provision of parking for any veteran licence plate is limited to cities with populations below 500,000 and, in cities where there is a significant military presence within a short driving distance, only Brandon offers free parking at meters.

| City | Population [1] | Veteran Plate Parking Policy |
|---|---|---|
| Brampton | 523,911 | No special privileges |
| Burnaby | 223,218 | No special privileges |
| Edmonton * | 1,159,869 | No special privileges |
| Halifax * | 390,328 | No special privileges |
| Fredericton | 94,268 | No special privileges |
| Kingston * | 159,561 | No special privileges |
| Montreal* | 3,824,221 | No special privileges |
| Ottawa * | 921,823 | No special privileges |
| Waterloo | 98,780 | No special privileges |
| Vancouver | 2,313,328 | No special privileges |
| Thunder Bay[2] | 121,596 | Free parking only on June 2, June 6, September 17 |
| Toronto[2] | 5,583,064 | Free parking only on June 6, September 17, November 11 |
| Guelph | 141,097 | Yes, with City issued permit only |
| Hamilton | 721,053 | World War II/Korean War vets with City issued permit |
| Kitchener | 219,153 | Yes, to War Pensioners only with special permit |
| Peterborough | 118,975 | Yes, with City issued permit only |
| Red Deer | 90,564 | Yes, with City issued permit only |
| Sudbury | 106,840 | Yes to War Pensioners only with special permit |
| Brandon * | 46,061 | Free parking offered for length of meter |
| Lethbridge | 105,999 | Free parking offered for length of meter |
| London | 474,786 | Free parking offered for length of meter |
| Regina | 210,556 | Free parking offered for length of meter |
| Saskatoon | 260,600 | Free parking offered for length of meter |
| White Rock | 19,339 | 4 hours at meters with veteran plate |
| * - indicates city with military base within/near city | | |
| 1 - taken from 2011 Census of Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) | | |
| 2 - June 2: Regimental Birthday, Lake Superior Scottish Regiment, June 6: D-Day, September 17: Battle of Britain Day | | |

Many of the noted municipalities, particularly in Ontario, instituted a temporary parking exemption for holders of Veterans Licence Plates during the 2005 'Year of the Veteran', but discontinued the program due to the amount of lost revenue and administrative costs. The City of Vancouver estimated that continuation of the program could have a potential cost of $20,000 per week.

Municipalities where a parking exemption does exist have indicated difficulty in administering the program as a result of challenges in customers understanding of what the limitations of the program are.

**Recommended Preferential Parking**

*Veteran's Parking Coupon Books*

Since 2009 the Agency has offered a scratch coupon book program whereby someone can purchase a booklet of 10 coupons for $20.00. These coupons allow the user to scratch the required time on the date they choose to use the coupon. Each coupon provides for 2 hours of parking for each coupon at any on-street metered location.

The Agency recommends that we build on the success of this type of program. A Veteran's Parking Coupon Program would allow the City of Winnipeg to recognize the important contributions made to Canada by our veterans. Issuance of one 10 coupon book to each Veteran Plate holder balances the need to recognize those contributions with the need for fiscal responsibility.

*Issuance*

Issued on the basis of possession of a valid Manitoba Veteran's Licence Plate, a Veteran's Parking Coupon book would provide 2 hours of parking for each coupon at any on-street metered location when displayed in conjunction with a Veteran's Licence Plate. This would provide flexibility to veterans in terms of usage of the complementary parking while maintaining the ability to ensure appropriate usage and limiting proliferation of Veteran Licence Plates. Each individual veteran will be entitled to one book regardless of the number of plates registered to the veteran. For plates issued prior to the roll-out of the program, licence and registration will be required to receive the coupon book, and all plates issued after that date will be required to provide licence, registration and a copy of the supporting documentation used to obtain the Veteran Licence Plate in order to receive the coupon book.

*Financial Impact*

The coupon cost in terms of lost revenue was calculated by multiplying the average hourly rate across the entire on-street inventory by the 2 hours provided by each coupon.

| Current Issued Plates[1] | | | 1500 |
|---|---|---|---|
| % of Use | # of Vehicles | Coupon Cost | Annual Cost @10 Coupons per Year |
| 5% | 75 | $ 2.58 | $ 1,937.06 |
| 10% | 150 | $ 2.58 | $ 3,874.13 |
| 25% | 375 | $ 2.58 | $ 9,685.32 |
| 50% | 750 | $ 2.58 | $ 19,370.65 |
| 100% | 1500 | $ 2.58 | $ 38,741.30 |
| 1. Currently registered Veterans plates in Winnipeg and area. | | | |

Should the number of Veteran Plates increase to close to the potential maximum of 6000, the maximum annual cost in terms of lost revenue would still remain below $160,000 on an annual basis. As the actual rate of redemption of the coupons is not known in advance, the actual cost in terms of lost revenue can not be predicted.

*Millennium Library*

With the completion of the skywalk connection from the CityPlace food court to the Convention Centre, the Millennium Library parking facility is ideally situated to provide convenient parking for attendees to the largest Remembrance Day event in Winnipeg. With the closure of the majority of downtown businesses, there is a lower than normal monthly permit holder usage of the facility and no transient customers – as a result, there is no loss of revenue to provide complementary parking on November 11 for holders of Veteran Licence Plates.

*Provision of Parking Exemption on Specific Days*

Provision of parking on April 9th, the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and June 6th, the anniversary of D-Day for vehicles displaying Veteran Licence Plates would allow the City to recognize the importance of these particular days and the contributions made by Veterans on those days. Based on the number of currently issued Veteran Licence Plates, the lost revenue and impact on on-street parking availability would be considered minimal.

| Current Issued Plates[1] | | | 1500 |
|---|---|---|---|
| % of Use | # of Vehicles | Average Cost | Annual Cost @ 2 days per Year |
| 5% | 75 | $ 5.17 | $ 774.83 |
| 10% | 150 | $ 5.17 | $ 1,549.65 |
| 25% | 375 | $ 5.17 | $ 3,874.13 |
| 50% | 750 | $ 5.17 | $ 7,748.26 |
| 1. Currently registered Veterans plates in Winnipeg and area. | | | |
| 2. The equivalent of 2 hours paid parking per day for the 2 days | | | |

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

**Project Name:** **First Year of Program** **2012**

Preferential parking for Veterans licence plate holders

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | | | | | |
| Capital Expenditures Required | | | | | |
| Less: Existing Budgeted Costs | | | | | |
| Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| **Funding Sources:** | | | | | |
| Debt - Internal | | | | | |
| Debt - External | | | | | |
| Grants (Enter Description Here) | | | | | |
| Reserves, Equity, Surplus | | | | | |
| Other - Enter Description Here | | | | | |
| Total Funding | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Total Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | | | | |
| Total Additional Debt Required | $ - | | | | |
| **Current Expenditures/Revenues** | | | | | |
| Direct Costs | | | | | |
| Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery | (46,489) | (46,489) | (46,489) | (46,489) | (46,489) |
| Net Cost/(Benefit) | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 |
| Less: Existing Budget Amounts | | | | | |
| Net Budget Adjustment Required | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 | $ 46,489 |

**Additional Comments:**

The analysis above reflects the anticipated total revenue foregone annually associated with this report's recommendations. The breakdown related to each recommendation is as follows: 1) That the City of Winnipeg provide complimentary on-street parking for Veterans on a year-round basis through the provision of Veteran specific parking coupon books. Based on 100% usage of the currently 1,500 issued veterans plates, foregone revenue is estimated to be $38,741; 2) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority provide complimentary parking for Veterans at the Millennium Library Parking facility on November 11th. With the closure of the majority of downtown businesses, there is a lower than normal monthly permit holder usage of the facility and no transient customers and as a result, no loss of revenue has been included; 3) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority provide complimentary on-street parking for the length of the meter to holders of Veteran Licence Plates on the Anniversaries of D-Day, June 6th and the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9th. Based on an estimate of 50% usage of the currently 1,500 issued veterans plates, foregone revenue is estimated to be $7,748; 4) That the Winnipeg Parking Authority continue to provide assistance with resolution of parking issues for specific events relating to veterans on a case by case basis. As the number of requests that impact regulated parking is limited there is limited impact on the agency's revenue and no loss of revenue has been included.

Original signed by
Karen Ayotte, CGA
Acting Manager of Finance & Administration

## CONSULTATION

**In preparing this report there was consultation with:**

## SUBMITTED BY

Department: Winnipeg Parking Authority
Division
Prepared by: Colin Stewart
Date: September 7, 2012
File No.