

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Transportation Committee
Comité des transports
4 May 2016 / 4 mai 2016**

**and Council
et au Conseil
11 May 2016 / 11 mai 2016**

**Submitted on April 27, 2016
Soumis le 27 avril 2016**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:
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Ward: SOMERSET (14)

File Number: ACS2016-COS-PWS-0019

SUBJECT: Veteran Parking on Remembrance Day

OBJET: Stationnement pour les anciens combattants le jour du Souvenir

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Transportation Committee recommend that Council approve that on Remembrance Day of each year, for vehicles bearing a Veteran licence plate issued by any province:

- 1. Staff not take any enforcement action with respect to the following sections of By-Law 2003-530, as amended:
 - a) Section 21 (Use of Parking Payment Device); for all on-street parking pay & display machines in the geographic area bounded by the****

Rideau Canal to the east, Somerset Street to the south, Bank Street to the west, and the Ottawa River to the north, save and except for tour bus meters, as described in this report.

- 2. All vehicles bearing a Veteran licence plate and any person wearing an armed forces uniform and/or displaying service medals also be granted free exit from the City Hall parking garage, as described in this report.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des transports recommande au Conseil d'approuver que, chaque année, le jour du Souvenir, dans le cas des véhicules portant une plaque d'immatriculation d'ancien combattant délivrée par l'une des provinces :

- 1. Le personnel ne prenne aucune mesure d'application de l'article suivant du Règlement municipal 2003-530, modifié :**
 - a) Article 21 (Utilisation du dispositif de paiement du stationnement), en ce qui concerne toutes les distributrices Payez et affichez pour le stationnement sur rue dans le secteur géographique bordé par le canal Rideau à l'est, la rue Somerset au sud, la rue Bank à l'ouest et la rivière des Outaouais au nord, exception faite des parcomètres pour autocars d'excursion, comme le précise le présent rapport.**
- 2. Les véhicules portant une plaque d'immatriculation d'ancien combattant ainsi que les personnes portant un uniforme des forces armées ou des médailles de service doivent pouvoir sortir gratuitement du garage de stationnement de l'hôtel de ville, comme le précise le présent rapport.**

BACKGROUND

The City of Ottawa values Veterans' contributions, dedication, and commitment to serving and protecting our country, and as such the Public Works department has studied various options in the past from a parking perspective at the request of members of Council in an effort to better recognize and support Veterans and other members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

On October 7, 2015, Councillor Qaqish tabled [Motion 8/2](#) at the Transportation Committee meeting (which was subsequently amended by [Motion 19/6](#) and carried by Council on October 14), granting free parking for holders of a Veteran licence plate on November 11, 2015 (Remembrance Day) at all on-street paid parking spaces in the

geographic area bounded by the Rideau Canal to the east, Somerset Street to the south, Bank Street to the west, and the Ottawa River to the north, as well as at the City Hall parking garage. The Motion also directed staff to report back to Transportation Committee with the results of offering free parking to Veteran licence plate holders, and the purpose of this report is to fulfill this direction and to recommend an approach moving-forward based on the results of this pilot.

DISCUSSION

In order to fulfill the direction received from Council, Public Works department staff analyzed data for on-street parking (in the boundary established by the motion) and off-street parking at the City Hall parking garage, both before and during Remembrance Day 2015. Given the diverse conditions that exist for on-street and off-street parking, the results are presented independently below, along with a recommended approach moving forward for each of these parking options.

On-Street

Staff communicated that there would be free on-street parking for holders of a Veteran licence plate on Remembrance Day 2015 via a Public Service Announcement and on ottawa.ca. Free on-street parking was granted by not requiring vehicles with a Veteran licence plate to pay at Pay & Display machines.

On Remembrance Day 2015, staff surveyed the number of vehicles parked on-street within the boundaries established in the motion, and the results were as follows:

- Morning (10:00am to 11:30am)
 - 552 total vehicles counted
 - 24 had a Veterans licence plate (4.3% of all vehicles)
- Mid-day (Noon to 1:30pm)
 - 422 total vehicles counted
 - 21 had a Veteran licence plate (5.0% of all vehicles)
- Afternoon (2:00pm to 3:30pm)
 - 399 total vehicles counted
 - 5 had a Veteran licence plate (1.3% of all vehicles)

The total number of vehicles parked on-street during Remembrance Day 2015 was 69% higher than on a regular day, and the on-street supply was over capacity in the morning between 10:00am and noon. For comparison purposes, staff have determined that approximately one vehicle with a Veteran licence plate would typically be observed on a

regular day within the boundaries established in the motion. Based on the number of vehicles with a Veteran licence plate, the total loss of on-street revenue on Remembrance Day 2015 was approximately \$140.

Due to a lack of comparable data from Remembrance Day in previous years, it is not possible to determine the extent to which this initiative encouraged more people with a Veteran licence plate to park on-street. While the number of Veteran licence plates observed during Remembrance Day 2015 was significantly higher than on a regular day, the relatively low number of vehicles with a Veteran plate was not a major contributing factor to the number of vehicles parked on-street.

City Hall Parking Garage

Concurrent with the approach for on-street parking, staff communicated that there would be free parking at the City Hall parking garage for holders of a Veteran licence plate on Remembrance Day 2015 via a Public Service Announcement, on ottawa.ca, and with advertisements within the City Hall building and garage. Free parking at the City Hall parking garage was granted using a validation system. Staff were stationed at each of the garage's two entrances and stamped the entry ticket of drivers of vehicles with a Veteran licence plate so they could gain free exit upon showing the stamped ticket to the booth attendant.

The City staff stationed at both entrances also counted the number of vehicles entering the garage with a Veteran licence plate. The results were as follows:

- Between 7:00am and 3:00pm
 - 713 total vehicles entered
 - 61 had a Veteran licence plate (8.6% of all vehicles)

Staff determined that on a regular day approximately 1,150 vehicles enter the City Hall parking garage, of which approximately 12 have a Veteran licence plate. Staff also determined that the total number of vehicles entering the City Hall parking garage on Remembrance Day 2015 was slightly higher than previous Remembrance Days (increase of 31% over 2013 & 2014). Despite this, when the usage peaked on Remembrance Day 2015, there were still 175 spaces available. Based on the number of vehicles granted free exit with a Veteran licence plate, the total loss of revenue at the City Hall parking garage was \$825.

As with the on-street parking, it is not possible to determine the extent to which this initiative encouraged more people with a Veteran licence plate to park in the City Hall

parking garage due to a lack of comparable data from previous Remembrance Days. While the number of Veteran licence plates observed during Remembrance Day 2015 was significantly higher than on a regular day, the relatively low number of vehicles with a Veteran plate had little impact on the availability of parking at the City Hall parking garage.

Next Steps

Moving forward, staff recommend two distinct approaches with respect to Veteran parking on Remembrance Day.

Staff recommend that the practice of offering free on-street parking to Veteran licence plate holders within the area bounded by the Rideau Canal to the east, Somerset Street to the south, Bank Street to the west, and the Ottawa River to the north continue on Remembrance Day each year as a gesture of appreciation to Veterans, specifically those attending the Remembrance Day ceremony at the National War Memorial. Veterans will be required to obey all other posted parking restrictions on the street.

As outlined in Recommendation 2, staff recommend that the eligibility criteria for off-street parking at the City Hall parking garage be expanded based on feedback received from visitors to the garage on Remembrance Day 2015, including Veterans and active service people. This feedback included comments that not all Veterans or active service people have a Veteran licence plate, that they may have multiple vehicles - only one of which has a Veteran licence plate, or that medals and uniforms should be sufficient forms of identification. As such, with the manual validation process that was in place at the City Hall parking garage, staff recommend that free parking at the garage also be granted to any vehicle with an occupant wearing an armed forces uniform and/or displaying service medals. This expanded criteria will more accurately reflect the intent of this initiative by recognizing a larger number of Veterans and active service people, and will also align with the criteria that is used by OC Transpo to allow those in uniform or showing medals to ride for free during Veterans Week. Unfortunately, it is not possible to effectively apply the expanded eligibility to drivers of vehicles parked on-street, as the only indicator to a By-law Officer that a parked vehicle is owned by a Veteran is a Veteran licence plate.

The results of offering Veterans free parking at the City Hall parking garage on Remembrance Day will be reported annually as part of Parking Services' Annual Report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications to this report or its recommendations.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Qaqish originally moved the motion to initiate the pilot in October 2015. The Councillor was consulted during the development of the recommendations of this report and is supportive of the proposed approach.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The Councillor is aware of the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications to the recommendations of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications to the recommendations of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations contained in this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

Staff will ensure that any applicable accessibility standards are adhered to during the execution of the recommendations identified in this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The recommendations of this report align to the 2015 – 2018 Strategic Priority – Service Excellence, specifically Strategic Objective SE1 – Improve the client experience through established service expectations.

DISPOSITION

Upon approval of this report, the Public Works department, along with By-law & Regulatory Services branch, will carry out the recommendations of this report.