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Parking revenue request defeated for now

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A city committee has defeated a long list of parking revenue requests by the Calgary Parking Authority.

The parking authority was asking to increase parking fines for infractions like expired meters. It also wanted paid parking to include Sundays and extend until 7pm every day of the week.

The parking authority argues it needs to find ways to increase revenue because reducing the parking rates downtown means they will lose about \$1.4-million.

If their proposals were approved, the parking authority stands to generate an extra \$1-million by increasing parking fines and an extra \$1.8-million by extending paid parking hours.

Even though the committee defeated the request on Wednesday the revenue requests will still be on the agenda for the budget debate.

But most aldermen and the mayor don't think it has a chance of passing.

"These guys at times, to me, seem a little bit out of control and I think they need council to be a watchdog for their pricing," says Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart.

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dutchman

Give from one hand and take with the other. How typical.

Marsha

If they give it to you with the left hand, they will then take it away again with the right hand...gee, how shocking.

Rob

Someone has to pay for the Peace Bridge. All I can say is stay away from downtown until they get the message, talk about being held up by thieves.
 Rob

Are you kidding me?

So on one hand they slightly decrease hourly parking rates (only slightly) and now on the other they want to raise fines and charge for parking on Sunday?!?! These guys are completely out of control and lacking any common sense what-so-ever. I know for a fact the CPA is rolling in dough, they already make more than what should be considered reasonable revenues/profit.

Whatelse is New

This is to offset the reduced parking rates ... what a joke!

Steve

Wow, really. I thought that the city's idea was to bring people to the downtown core. Now they are thinking of charging us on Sundays too? This is exactly why I do not come to the core. I may work here but I have no other reason to be here. This does however give me one more reason why to NOT come down town.

CTV NEWS VIDEO PLAYER



Kevin Rich reports on the proposed parking fines increase

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T in AB

Go ahead, charge for extended weekend hours and add sundays! I won't come downtown on the weekend anymore... Say goodbye to downtown businesses! Way to kill the core guys!!

Increase fines, no issue there. If you pay for parking like you should, I'm ok with that.

Can I ask? The parking authority will lose \$1.4 million... and that's an issue because? Isn't that the city's money? So the parking authority is arguing they aren't raising enough money for the city?? Uh, didn't the city vote to reduce rates, meaning they know the fund is down? Just asking! I don't know...

Mr. Jimmy

Brutal. Wasn't it just two weeks ago that the parking authority reduced rates by \$0.25 to great fanfare?

And, having to pay for parking on an empty street on an evening or weekend will discourage people from eating, shopping, and visiting the downtown core. Supply and demand. The parking authority already charges a premium when demand is high - it is unnecessary and counterproductive to charge a fee when demand is at its lowest.

VERY shortsighted move if the city allows this to happen.

Carrie - Calgary

I'd like to know what some of these DT business think - Charging on Sundays!!!! Come on! this only makes it easier for the people that usually don't travel to the core except Sundays for something different to continue to stay in the own area.. I think this will hurt the city in alot of different ways. I can tell you my luncheons with friends and family won't be down there anymore!!

Rich

If the Parking Authority needs to raise more revenue by increasing the time and days they charge for parking, the first place that they should increase is the free parking at the Ctrain stations between 2:00 PM and 10:00 PM. I realize that the Flames lobbied for this free period so that their fans had more money to spend at the Saddledome but let's be sensible because if you can afford a Flames ticket you can afford to pay the \$3.00 for parking.

Rowdycowboy

This City Administration is so out of touch with its citizens...all it ever wants to do and take take take...people need to stand up and boycott going downtown and when the mechants unfortunately start to hurt maybe then City Hall will start to listen..

Dan

Sure is a lot of whining about this...

They just dropped the parking rates, PAY THE RATE and you WON'T get the fine!

Bait and switch? Enough from the lame politicians complaining about this. Don't you have something better to do with your time and OUR tax dollars? Suck it up and get back to work!

Retailers Will Suffer

This City and it's administration is totally corrupt and the ones to suffer, the retailers (because you ain't hurting me)!

CM

The city wonders why downtown is a dead zone on weekends and then go ahead and try to add pay parking on Sunday? For god's sake, give it up already! Just keep digging deeper into our pockets. I can NOT wait to vote these clowns out.

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Pete

Look, the way I see it is this. If the downtown business people do not

get up in arms over this who needs to? I have not been downtown for years and this increase and Sunday paying I will NOT be going downtown. If you start shutting down business's etc maybe just maybe. Funny thing how they are pushing this prior to the Gray Cup? Na, that is just mean, right?

Liz

I fully agree with increasing the fine for people who don't follow the rules. Too many entitled folks walking around these days!

Is it then hypocritical of me to say that the possibility for charging on weekends is absolutely ridiculous? We will essentially have to pay to go downtown, regardless of how we get there. Transit, parking, etc. Nauseating. Want to charge me a fee for walking out my front door? Knock yourself out.

Jolene

I'll be happy to see fines raised. I'm great with that. Violators should pay dearly, for the rest of us that are honest.

Just don't change the hours that we can park.

Marcia

What are these guys on anyway. They want people to come downtown !! What for. Lets get these fools out of silly hall before we are all broke

Mike

The only way to get to these guys is to boycott downtown Calgary (most people already have), & of course be sure to vote out the anti-parking members of city council (all of them from what I hear).

It's like they think their mandate is to make parking in Calgary as difficult and expensive as possible.

TLC

I have to laugh! When I watched the news report on the parking prices coming down (ever so slightly) I thought to myself ... "Ummmm, wonder where they are going to gouge us next to make up for this GREAT savings!" Voila! The answer presents itself! City council is such a joke.

Jim

Unless Calgarians are willing to go to the polls next October and take our city back by voting the scalawags we now have in City Hall right out of office, we're going to be seeing even more of this insufferable nonsense.

Given useless bridges that are millions over budget, property tax increase upon tax increase and up to half a day's pay for many people for a parking meter violation - just to name three things - I for one have bloody well had enough and so should everyone else by now!

I want my city back and so should you!

Kathy

Then when the economy picks up and they raise the parking rates, they will have best of both worlds.

City worker

It's right. We are making a lot of money in Calgary and we are must to pay.

Harry

Well said ARE YOU KIDDING ME. But what can we expect from any of this administration. Bet I can guess which aldermen are "up in arms!" Can't wait for next October so we can turf most of the administration.

SAM i AM

... I think Calgary is getting back to its cowboy roots... soon downtown will have tumble weeds blowing about... Downtown... you can now call it "Ghost-town" who's gonna shop now... especially that Eaton Center and Holt Renfrew spent all that money on remodeling... we are still trying to figure out how to use the "New Parking" way!!.. good luck if you don't have a credit card to pay with!!!

Don

get rid of the Parking Authority. They are stupid and apparently have no common sense. Nor do they work with ANYBODY. Give us some names for this Parking Authority. They aren't involved in problem solving.

Carl

I say, go ahead and jack up both the fines and the parking rates. I will not go downtown if they paid me and if they continue with this ridiculous behaviour the downtown area might well become as dead as the cemetery. Pity those mercants downtown. Love the shopping centers. No charge for parking.

Don

Lay off some parking authority instead of punishing the total city. How are the parking authority cutting costs anyway?



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