



Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives

Steven Kolenberg, Chair

Bradley Michelson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Transportation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Kolenberg and Committee Member Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson, Pendell, Spadaccini and Wallace. Also present were Reps. Lion, Morson, Sherwood and Zelinsky; Michael Moran, Jr, The Palace Theater; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Dana Lee, Law Department; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; and Jim Travers, Luke Buttenwieser, Frank Petise and Frantz Gabriel, Traffic, Transportation and Parking Bureau.

Chair Kolenberg called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. T30.028 | RESOLUTION; Confirming and Establishing Hours of Enforcement and Fees for On-Street Parking Meters. 12/05/18 – Submitted by Bureau Chief Travers 12/20/18 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 7-0-1 01/07/19 – Held by Full Board 01/14/19 – Moved to Pending 02/21/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0 03/21/19 – Approved, as amended, 5-0-0 05/02/19 – Public Hearing held and Approved by Committee, 9-0-0 05/06/19 – Held by Full Board | Approved as Amended 9-0-0 |

Mr. Moran, Mr. Travers and Mr. Pollard discussed this item with the Committee as follows:

- The Palace Theatre rented over 500 bags this past year. If the cost goes from \$10 to \$40 it will cost \$15,000.
- The Palace is a 501(c)(3)
- The Palace is doing 61 shows this year on its own, and the building is also rented by the Stamford Symphony, the Ballet, Inspirica, etc., which also rent meter bags
- For the current show by Styx, they are renting 8 meter bags
- If he needed to cover the additional cost, he could raise ticket prices, but that would be detrimental; 35% of the ticket buyers are from Stamford and 70% of the ticket buyers are from Fairfield County
- There were a total of 875 meter bags rented last year
- The City can't determine what percentage of all of the bags rented are rented to non-profits

A motion to amend this resolution to provide that the 24 hours meter rental fee for non-profit organizations shall be \$25 was made and seconded. A friendly amendment was made and accepted to change the \$25 to \$20. This motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Kolenberg, Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson, Pendell, Spadaccini and Wallace in favor).

Committee members continued to discuss the bag rental fees with Mr. Travers:

- The original proposal from the administration was \$20 for daytime rental and \$25 for 24 hour rental
- It makes the City look bad to go from \$10 to \$40
- The goal of having a day rate and a 24 hour rate is to free up meters that are only being used during the day; there were complaints about meters being out of commission for 24 hours although they were not being used
- It is less expensive to pay for a parking ticket than to rent the meter at \$40
- This goes well beyond the cost of paying for the meter; the original amount was based on the cost of the meters

A motion to amend this resolution to provide that the regular meter rental fees shall be \$20/day Monday – Saturday 7am – 7pm and \$25/day 24 hours/7 days a week (excluding non-profits) was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Kolenberg, Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson, Pendell, Spadaccini and Wallace in favor).

Committee members then discussed whether the enforcement hours should end at 8 pm or 7 pm with Mr. Travers:

- The downtown business raised the issue of increasing the hours to 8 pm in order to increase turnover.
- Mr. Travers stated he had discussed with the Committee that he would be meeting with downtown businesses prior to doing so.
- 75-90% of the members of the DSSD weighed in on this issue

A motion amend this resolution to change the on-street parking meter enforcement hours from 8 am to 7 pm was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 2-7-0 (Reps. Kolenberg and Pendell in favor; Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson, Spadaccini and Wallace opposed).

A motion to amend the hourly meter rate from \$1.25 to \$1.40 was made and did not receive a second.

A motion to approve this resolution, as amended, was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Kolenberg, Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson, Pendell, Spadaccini and Wallace in favor).

2. [T30.029](#) RESOLUTION; Confirming and Establishing Hours of Enforcement and Fees for City-Owned Garages and Parking Lots (Excluding Commuter Lots). Approved 8-0-0
 12/05/18 – Submitted by Bureau Chief Travers
 12/20/18 – Approved by Committee 7-0-0
 01/07/19 – Held by Full Board
 01/14/19 – Moved to Pending
 02/21/19 – Held by Committee 6-0-0
 03/21/19 – Approved, as amended, 5-0-0
 05/02/19 – Public Hearing held and Approved by Committee, 8-0-0
05/06/19 – Held by Full Board

Rep. Kolenberg left the room for discussion of this item.

A motion to amend this resolution per the recommendations made by Rep. McMullen in an email to Rep. Michelson [Increase all Parking garage rates to \$1.25/hr; increase Downtown resident parking from \$70/\$60 per month to \$75/\$65 per month; increase the DSSD Retail Voucher Group Monthly from \$53 to \$58; increase the Multiple Discount Rate from \$73 To \$78; and increase the Ferguson Library Rate from \$23 To \$25] was made and did not receive a second.

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Giordano, Moore, Patterson, Pendell, Spadaccini and Wallace in favor).

3. [T30.036](#) ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 7 of the City Code of Ordinances to Prohibit the Use of Red Light and Speed Cameras. Failed 2-5-2
 05/08/19 – Submitted by Reps. Kolenberg and Sherwood

Secondary Committee: Legislative & Rules

Rep. Sherwood stated that she submitted this item because there are many reasons for an ordinance to ban red light and speeding cameras:

- The evidence is that they don't make intersections safer
- There are surveillance and social justice issues raised by the use of the cameras
- The cameras are currently banned in the state; this would protect the residents if the ban were lifted

Mr. Lee stated that

- The current CCTV ordinance specifically prohibits the use of cameras for traffic enforcement which would include red light and speeding cameras
- There is no enabling legislation from the State permitting such cameras
- If an ordinance permitting the use of such cameras were brought to the Law Department, the Department would take the position that the ordinance was prohibited

Committee members discussed this ordinance with Mr. Pollard, Mr. Lee, Mr. Jankowski and Mr. Travers. Comments included the following:

- The ordinance is superfluous, since there is already an ordinance prohibiting these cameras

- After the death of a high school student and an employee at Henckel, as part of the City's pedestrian safety initiatives, the City did approach the State about a pilot program for speed cameras in school corridors and red light cameras in school zones and at high volume intersections with a high likelihood of vehicle pedestrian encounters; the goal was to change the driving culture; the proposal included input from the State on the guidelines for placement of the cameras and an audit by the State – this proposal did not get taken up by the Committee
- This is a confusing addition to an ordinance that already exists
- The definition of CCTV cameras in the current ordinance would include red light and speed cameras
- There are currently traffic cameras monitored by the Engineering Department; if there were a criminal event, the Police Bureau of Investigations would review the footage to see if there were any evidence of the crime; there is no ongoing monitoring of the footage by the Police Department
- There would have been more effective ways to prevent the two deaths – lower the speed limit in school zones to 15 MPH, adding no turn on red signs and having all lights at an intersection turn red when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk
- Cameras will not prevent every death but it is about changing the culture of driving
- Speed cameras in Europe result in obsession with the speedometer
- The proposed state legislation was not about making money or over-enforcing traffic violations
- The City's proposed pilot program was for 5 or 6 cameras and to last only for one year, with subsequent review by the State
- There is data that these cameras reduce injuries
- The City has 211 signalized intersections and 18 uniformed officers available to enforce traffic violations
- These cameras are exploited wherever they are used and have been made illegal in several states and municipalities
- The Board of Representatives would have the authority to restrict how the cameras are used
- These would be citations to the vehicle, not traffic violations to a person, similar to a parking violation
- The State House has passed HB 6392 "An Act Concerning Highway Work Zone Safety Enforcement --To allow the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices within highway work zone"; the State Senate has not approved this
- "If we don't do this people will die" is not a way to run a government
- Cities and states are moving away from this technology; intersections with cameras are the most dangerous
- Nothing can be done, including the pilot program, until the Board of Representatives agrees to change the current ordinance, even if the pilot program was just temporary
- If the State were to pass legislation saying the City "shall" use these cameras, it would negate any ordinance; if it said "may" the Board of Representatives would have to amend the current ordinance
- There is no need to pass this ordinance since the City already can't do this under the current ordinance
- The legislature is adjourning in 2 weeks and there is no proposed enabling legislation
- The Administration would have to come before the Board before they could install any of these cameras; this is years away
- The Board should wait until that eventuality

A motion to approve this ordinance for publication was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 2-5-2 (Reps. Kolenberg and Giordano in favor; Reps. Michelson, Di Costanzo, Moore, Pendell and Spadaccini opposed; Reps. Patterson and Wallace abstaining).

4. T30.033 REVIEW; Comprehensive Review of Parking Ticket Held
Appeal Process.
02/27/19 – Submitted by Rep. Kolenberg
03/21/19 – Held by Committee
05/02/19 – Report Made & Held

Chair Kolenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Kolenberg, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).