

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 4/8/08
Reviewed by: *BP*

SUBJECT: Paid Parking Program

FROM: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council refer the issue of establishing paid parking program(s) to the Traffic & Safety Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Albany Chamber of Commerce, and Solano Avenue Association for comments and recommendations, by June 30, 2008.

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of February 4, 2008, the City Council referred the concept of a paid parking program, such as one that involves parking meters, to the Sustainability Committee. The thought was that the availability of parking in the public right of way related to the use of cars by the public, and consequently impacted the amount of carbon emissions.

DISCUSSION

The Sustainability Committee discussed the issue of a paid parking program at its meeting of March 12, 2008 (excerpt minutes attached). The Committee reached the conclusion that there was not a sufficient enough nexus between its charge and paid parking, and recommended the matter be referred elsewhere. The Committee thought that the Traffic & Safety Commission and the Social & Economic Justice Commission might be better suited for the task.

ANALYSIS

Both the Traffic & Safety Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission handle parking issues as part of their charges, with the former being involved in location and regulation of parking spaces and the latter being involved in recommending and applying policy on parking requirements for development and business uses. Therefore, staff advises that it would be relevant for the Council to receive advice from these two commissions about a paid parking program. There does not appear to be as strong a relationship between the charge of the Social & Economic Justice Commission and the issue of paid parking, but that referral option is available to Council.

There is also a relationship between the interests of the business community and a paid program such as parking meters in the commercial district; therefore, staff advises that the Council ask for comments and recommendations from Albany business organizations, such as the Solano Avenue Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Staff recommends that Council provide a deadline for receipt of comments and recommendations, and suggests about 3 months, to June 30, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff time for the staff liaisons to the two city commissions.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Excerpt, Sustainability Committee minutes, March 12, 2008
2. Staff report, February 4, 2008