

**PROPOSED RECERTIFICATION OF RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM**  
**AREA E**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

On May 25, 1993 Title 5 of the Pittsburgh City Code Chapter 549, of the Residential Parking Permit Program (R.P.P.P), section 549.06 was amended so that the Parking Permit Officer (Planning Director) would verify to City Council every four years that affected residents still need and desire the program. This ordinance currently reads that in the determining to renew a designated area for the R.P.P.P, the Parking Permit Officer (Planning Director) shall certify the continued existence of the primary impactor on which official designation was based, and certify that 70 percent of households, by petition, survey or combination thereof, still desire participation in the program. Part of this verification includes a briefing of the City Council Commission prior to submitting verification to City Council.

**2. R.P.P.P. DISTRICT**

The area to be recertified is Area "E", South Oakland (see map on page 5). This district includes:

- ♦ **Ophelia Street**- from Lawn Street to Niagara Street,
- ♦ **Craft Avenue**- from the Boulevard of the Allies to Niagara Street,
- ♦ **Hamlet Street**- from the Boulevard of the Allies to Lawn Street,
- ♦ **Craft Place**- from the Boulevard of the Allies to Ophelia Street,
- ♦ **Joe Hammer Square**- from the Boulevard of the Allies and Craft Place to Ophelia Street,
- ♦ **Kennett Square**- from Lawn Street to Craft Place,
- ♦ **Niagara Street**- from the Boulevard of the Allies to Lawn Street.

**3. BACKGROUND**

Originally, the reason for lack of sufficient legal on-street parking spaces for residents in South Oakland, Area "E" was due to employees of the various Oakland Hospitals, patrons attending the Pittsburgh Playhouse, and the students and employees going to the University of Pittsburgh. As a result this residential neighborhood was saturated with parked vehicles.

The South Oakland residents desired to reduce this volume of non-residential parking on residential streets by establishing a residential parking program as a means of achieving this reduction. Area "E" R.P.P.P. was approved in July of 1984.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Recertification is based on the questionnaire results, parking survey, analysis of primary impactors, and feed back from community leaders.

The following is a summary with the key points highlighted:

##### **A. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS**

**By sending out questionnaires, the R.P.P.P. was able to determine that the majority of South Oakland residents still desired the program. Of the 340 questionnaires sent in 2003, 55 were returned (16%), showing that 56% (31 residents) were still in favor of the program as it stands. Of the 42% (23 residents) that found that the program has created new hardships, 61% (14 residents) stated that not enough enforcement was occurring. If taken into account, 82% of the respondents then, are in support of the program, while 36% total (20 residents) request more enforcement and a stronger program.**

- ◆ 27% of the permit holders, with an opinion, found it very difficult to park near their home prior to the implementation of the program.
- ◆ 73% of the permit holders, with an opinion, are satisfied with the boundaries of the program.
- ◆ 58% are satisfied with hours of the program.
- ◆ 49% are satisfied with enforcement of the program.

The greatest number of complaints were regarding stricter enforcement overall (20 complaints), enforcement needed during evening and weekend hours (12 complaints), multiple permits allowed per household causing too much parking density (12 complaints), number of visitor's passes not being adequate (9 complaints), and lack of spaces available in the evening (7 complaints).

We are working with the Parking Enforcement office of the Parking Authority to improve enforcement. We are also investigating increased hours for the program. This should alleviate parking density problems as well. We will discuss changing the visitor's pass restrictions at the next citywide RPPP meeting, since this is a program-wide issue.

##### **B. PARKING SURVEY RESULTS**

**The Parking Survey Results showed that the program is still needed for South Oakland and was effective in providing 37% more spaces for these residents to park in on the streets surveyed.**

The results of the on-street parking survey were collected in July of 1999.

Table A identifies the streets surveyed and the information collected includes:

- ◆ Number of residential parkers
- ◆ Number of non-residential parkers
- ◆ Number of vehicles using visitor passes
- ◆ Total number of parkers
- ◆ Total available spaces

Table **B** shows percentages of vehicles occupying the streets surveyed and the information collected includes:

- ◆ Percentage of resident parkers on each street.
- ◆ Percentage of non-resident parkers (without visitor pass or permit) on each street.
- ◆ Percent of spaces occupied on each street.
- ◆ Percent of spaces occupied on each street prior to the program.
- ◆ Difference between the percent of space occupied on each street prior to the program and the percent occupied in the street surveys of the summer of 1999.

As shown in Table **B**, the total percent of spaces occupied in 1999 was 57%, with 30% being non-resident vehicles. Approximately 43% of available spaces are still left for residents to park in while before the program, there were 0% of the spaces available.

Prior to the program, 102% of the spaces were being utilized.

**Due to the program, there has been a decrease of 45% spaces being occupied showing that the Residential Parking Permit Program has definitely worked for the South Oakland, Area "E".**

**Table A**

STREET NAMES	RES. PARKERS	NON-RES. PARKERS	VISITORS' PASSES	TOTAL NO. PARKERS	TOTAL AVAILABLE SPACES
Joe Hammer Square	6	3	3	12	19
Craft Avenue	10	9	1	20	29
Kennett Square	6	4	1	11	22
Ophelia Street	22	6	2	30	57
<i>Total</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>127</i>

**Table B**

STREET NAMES	% RES PARKERS	% NON-RES PARKERS	% SPACES OCCUPIED	% SPACES OCCUPIED PRIOR TO PROGRAM	% DIFFERENCE
Joe Hammer Square	50	25	63	137	-46
Craft Avenue	50	45	69	100	-69
Kennett Square	54	36	50	86	-58
Ophelia Street	73	20	53	96	-55
<i>Total</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>-45</i>

#### C. PRIMARY IMPACTORS

The ordinance requires us to identify that the primary impactors are still in existence. This term we have 3 interns from the University of Pittsburgh. We have contacted Magee-Women's Hospital and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and both answered the phone and confirmed being in operation. The Pittsburgh Playhouse is still owned and operated by Point Park College, and its schedule of shows can be found at [www.ppc.edu/playhouse/](http://www.ppc.edu/playhouse/).

#### D. FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

We received a letter of support from Richard Sass, the secretary of the Oakcliffe Housing Club. It stated, "At our monthly meeting held yesterday [March 19, 2003], the members present agreed by consensus that the current days and hours of the [Residential Parking Permit] program should be retained."

The main suggestions for improvement given at the meeting included; replacing the plastic visitor's passes with a different design since they do not stick to the glass in cold weather and are easy to lose or forget, having more enforcement mid-week and on street cleaning days but less on weekend and holiday mornings, and taking up the policy of presenting a first-time offender with a warning rather than a violation, so that new visitors are not scared away from the neighborhood.

Since, as mentioned above, we are working with the Parking Enforcement office of the Parking Authority to improve enforcement, these, more specific issues will also be discussed.

The letter also stated, "In summary, most folks here are pleased with the program but would like to see it used to attract more residents to the city rather than be so tough as to scare them away. We think it has many positive features, and we are happy to re-certify the program for another four years."

#### **5. RECERTIFICATION**

As conclusion, our analysis has shown that, 82%, 12% more than the required criteria of 70% for inclusion into the program, are still in favor of the program. Second, the Residential Parking Permit for the South Oakland, Area "E", has created a decrease of at least 45% in occupied spaces as shown in the Parking Density Chart (Table B). Third, the primary impactors the Oakland Hospitals, the Pittsburgh playhouse, and the University of Pittsburgh still supply the hazard of their employees, students and visitors using the residential streets for parking. Last, the permit holders are in favor of recertifying Area "E" (South Oakland).

**Because of this analysis, it is recommended that R.P.P.P. Area "E" (South Oakland) be recertified.**