

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE 126710**  
**COUNCIL BILL 120435**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Traffic Code; revising restricted parking zone program fees for restricted parking zone permits and guest permits; clarifying language related to the transition to virtual, license plate-based permitting; and amending Sections 3.12.120, 11.16.319, and 11.72.351 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the restricted parking zone (RPZ) program was established by Ordinance 108354 in 1979 to ease parking congestion in residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, RPZ fees were last updated by Ordinance 123448 in 2010 and since then Seattle’s density and population have grown substantially; and

WHEREAS, the current permit fee is \$65 for two years, plus one two-year guest permit per household, and permit fees are intended to cover the costs for administering the program; and

WHEREAS, the annual fees of residential parking permits in other comparable cities range from \$50 to \$450; and

WHEREAS, as demand for RPZ permits grows, requiring additional staff to meet customer service objectives, it is consistent with Seattle Municipal Code Section 3.12.120 to use money from RPZ fees to hire additional staff; and

WHEREAS, due to growing volumes of zones and permits, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Traffic Permit Counter staff are frequently unable to handle applications, emails, and phone calls in a timely manner, and temporary contract labor has been used; and

WHEREAS, SDOT Curbside Management staff are often unable to handle the volume of requests for new zones and additions to existing zones, and they often do not have the

1 capacity to effectively analyze and query RPZ data to fully understand how the program  
 2 is operating; and

3 WHEREAS, SDOT is transitioning to virtual, license plate-based permitting, in which there are  
 4 no physical permits, and enforcement is by license plate recognition (LPR) systems, and  
 5 the Seattle Municipal Code needs to be accordingly updated; NOW, THEREFORE,

6 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

7 Section 1. Section 11.16.319 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
 8 123448, is amended as follows:

9 **11.16.319 Fees for restricted parking zone permits(~~(; Waiver or reduction of fees.)~~)**

10 ~~((A-))~~ The parking fees to be collected by the Seattle Department of Transportation for  
 11 restricted parking zone permits are as follows:

Type of Permit	Fee
<u>RPZ Resident or Business</u> parking permit	<del>((65.00))</del> <u>\$95</u>
<del>((Temporary))</del> <u>RPZ 60-Day Short Term</u> permit	\$25 <del>((.00 for first 60 day period; \$25.00 for second 60 day period))</del>
<u>RPZ Guest permit</u> ( <del>issued with resident permit</del> )	<del>((30.00))</del> <u>\$95</u>
<del>((Guest permit as only permit</del>	<del>65.00))</del>
<u>RPZ Replacement permit</u> (of <del>((R))Resident ((and guest))</del> , <u>Business, or Guest permit</u> )	<del>((15.00 for first permit, \$25.00 for second permit))</del> <u>\$20</u>
<u>RPZ</u> ( <del>Elderly/Low-i</del> ) <u>Income-eligible</u> ( <del>permanent</del> ) permit	\$10 <del>((.00))</del>
<u>RPZ</u> Single-day ( <del>g</del> ) <u>Guest permit</u>	\$1 <del>((.00))</del>

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1           ~~((B. The Director of Transportation may waive or reduce an RPZ fee in subsection A~~  
2 ~~whenever:~~

3                   ~~1. the waiver or reduction is in the overall public interest due to extraordinary~~  
4 ~~facts or circumstances,~~

5                   ~~2. the waiver or reduction is consistent with the goals of the RPZ program, or~~

6                   ~~3. dire consequences may result if the request is denied.))~~

7           Section 2. Section 11.72.351 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
8 124063, is amended as follows:

9 **11.72.351 Restricted parking zone((-))**

10           A. No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle in violation of the posted or marked  
11 restrictions or when a permit or other authorization issued by the city is required as a condition  
12 for parking unless the following permit or placard is displayed: (1) an RPZ permit pursuant to  
13 ~~((chapter))~~ Chapter 11.16 ~~((SMC))~~; (2) a free-floating car sharing permit pursuant to Section  
14 11.23.160; or (3) a disabled placard permit, license plate, or year tab pursuant to ~~((RCW~~  
15 ~~46.19.030 or 46.19.070))~~ chapter 46.19 RCW. Motorcycles and scooters are authorized to park in  
16 an RPZ without an RPZ permit. It shall be a violation of this ~~((section))~~ Section 11.72.351 if:

- 17                   1. The RPZ permit does not match the vehicle;
- 18                   2. A guest permit is being used improperly;
- 19                   3. The zone permit does not match the zone where vehicle is parked, or
- 20                   4. The vehicle is parked within the same zone as the permit indicates, but it is
- 21 parked more than six blocks away from the address for which the permit is issued.

22           B. It is unlawful and is a parking infraction to display an RPZ permit in an improper  
23 location on a vehicle. ~~((The))~~ If an RPZ permit is a physical permit, it must be affixed to the

1 vehicle (~~at the lower center of the rear window for which it is issued unless the vehicle is a~~  
2 ~~truck, a vehicle without a rear window, has a dark tinted rear window or a surface defroster, or~~  
3 ~~where the Seattle Department of Transportation has approved an exemption, whereby the permit~~  
4 ~~may, in the alternative, be placed in the lower left hand corner of the driver's side front~~  
5 ~~windshield)) in accordance with conditions of use.~~

6 C. It is unlawful and is a parking infraction to sell, transfer, purchase, or otherwise  
7 acquire for value a permit (~~or decal~~) issued by the City per (~~SMC~~) Section 11.16.315 or  
8 11.16.316 and to subsequently use (~~or display~~) the permit to park in an RPZ.

9 Section 3. Section 3.12.120 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
10 125492, is amended as follows:

11 **3.12.120 Disposition of permit fees**

12 Fees collected by the Seattle Department of Transportation for permits or other means of  
13 extending parking privileges in any restricted parking zone, as authorized in (~~Seattle Municipal~~  
14 ~~Code~~) Section 11.16.120, shall be deposited in the Transportation Fund for the purpose of  
15 reimbursing ongoing operating and capital costs of (~~restricted parking zones~~) the Restricted  
16 Parking Zone program.

1 Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 29th day of November, 2022,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 29th day of  
6 November, 2022.

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8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9  Approved /  returned unsigned /  vetoed this 2nd day of December, 2022.

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11 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 2nd day of December, 2022.

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14 Elizabeth M. Adkisson, Interim City Clerk

15 (Seal)