

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Public Protection Agency
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE: June 19, 2003

TO: Members, Board of Supervisors

FROM: PENELOPE CLARKE, Administrator
Public Protection Agency

SUBJECT: Report Back On Juror Parking Subsidy

Meredith Bostian, Superior Court Jury Commissioner, during the Proposed 2003-04 Budget Hearings on June 16, 2003, gave testimony regarding subsidized juror parking. This report back is in response to said testimony.

BACKGROUND

Sacramento County has historically provided subsidized parking to jurors driving to jury duty at the Downtown Courthouse. However, the FY 2003-04 Proposed Budget recommends against funding any juror parking in excess of the spaces available in the dedicated Jury Parking Lot.

A total of 105,850 estimated juror parking days during 2002-03 is broken down as follows:

77,000 (73%) at the "free" St. Joseph's lot (known as the Jury Parking Lot)

21,450 (20%) at the 2-story County parking lot

7,400 (7%) at the Platinum (SP) parking lot

The Jury Parking Lot

The estimated 77,000 juror parking days at the Jury Parking Lot assumes 346 parking spaces times 248 court days. It should be noted that, prior to 1998, the General Services Parking Enterprise charged the County General Fund approximately \$270,000 per year for use of the Jury Parking Lot (346 spaces x \$65.00 per month x 12 months). During 1998, your Board ended this charge. The Parking Enterprise's loss was subsequently offset by \$90,000 per year in new revenues (by raising the public parking rates from \$.50/half hour to the current \$.75/half hour and from \$1.00/hour to the current \$1.50/hour) and from a reduction of \$200,000 per year in franchise in-lieu expenses.

The “Overflow” Lots

The County two-story parking lot and the Platinum lot near the SP yard comprise the overflow parking lots for jurors who drive to the downtown area for jury service. The total estimated subsidy cost to the County General Fund for these 2 lots during 2002-03 is \$216,000 as follows:

County Lot: Approximately 21,450 parkers at an average of \$8.00 per day which totals \$171,600 (which is 80% of \$216,000).

Platinum Lot: Approximately 7,400 parkers at \$6.00 per day which totals \$44,400 (which is 20% of \$216,000).

Updated Request from the Court for 2003-04

When the Proposed 2003-04 Budget was prepared, the Court estimated the subsidized cost of juror parking during 2002-03 would be \$216,000 and requested the same amount for 2003-04. During her testimony on July 16, 2003, Ms. Bostian, the Jury Commissioner, stated that she thought a reduction of \$96,000 (for a revised total of \$120,000) would be possible due to a reduced the number of jurors being called to duty.

The reduction figure of \$96,000 is derived as follows:

The Jury Commissioner, speaking on behalf of the Presiding Judge, anticipates 12,073 less jurors reporting for jury service during 2003-04. The maximum daily rate at the County Parking Lot is \$10. The daily rate at the Platinum Parking Lot is \$6. Assuming an average daily parking rate of \$8.00, the Court anticipates that this measure will result in a reduction of approximately \$96,000 next fiscal year.

The Court therefore anticipates a reduced need of \$120,000 for overflow juror parking (\$216,000 minus \$96,000).

Response To Updated Court Request

Due to the County’s dire lack of funding and the discretionary nature of subsidized juror parking, this office continues to recommend against any juror parking subsidy in FY 2003-04.

Concerns About Abuse At The Jury Parking Lot

At the hearing on June 16, 2003 there was also discussion regarding the possible use of the Jury Parking Lot by non-jurors. We will work with the Court and General Services to ensure that any such abuse is either minimized or, hopefully, eliminated.

PENELOPE CLARKE, Administrator
Public Protection Agency

cc: Hon. Michael T. Garcia, Presiding Judge; Meredith Bostian, Jury Commissioner; John Newton, Director, General Services