

AGENDA ITEM #9  
July 14, 2009

**Public Hearing**

**MEMORANDUM**

July 10, 2009

TO: County Council

FROM: <sup>60</sup> Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Staff Director

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing**—special appropriation for the Rockville Parking District Nondepartmental Account (NDA) to fund reimbursement for lost revenue from patron parking - \$147,430 (General Fund)

This spring the Council decided it would postpone a decision on funding this portion of the NDA until after it had adopted the FY10 Operating Budget, so it might revisit its policy on parking at public libraries. That policy is that County residents are not charged for parking during the first two hours of use each day while using any County library located in areas where parking is normally charged: currently, the Bethesda and Rockville Libraries (©1-2). However, no resolutions have been sponsored and introduced that would either repeal or amend the policy, nor to set a rate for the Bethesda Library, so the only matter before the Council is whether or not to fund the balance of this NDA.

The \$147,430 amount consists of two parts:

1. \$3,890 is for additional reimbursement due to the Parking District for revenue lost due to free parking being provided for Rockville Library *employees*. The estimate of revenue lost in FY10 is \$71,390, up from \$67,500 in FY09.
2. \$143,540 is for reimbursement due to the Parking District for revenue lost due to free parking being provided to Rockville Library *patrons*. The estimate of revenue lost is up from \$84,000 that was estimated for FY09. For a library patron, the routine is: park in a garage, note the number of the space, and go to the pay station in the library, enter the space number, and get a receipt displaying when the 2 free hours of parking would expire.

A draft resolution is on ©3. The Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee is scheduled to take up this matter on July 20. Action by the full Council is tentatively scheduled for July 28, 2009.

Resolution: 16-595  
Introduced: May 13, 2008  
Adopted: June 10, 2008

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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By: Councilmembers Leventhal, Berliner and Ervin

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**SUBJECT:** [Repeal of] Amendment to Resolution 15-1396 regarding the Policy on Parking at County Libraries

**Background**

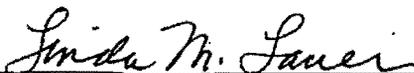
- [1.] On February 28, 2006 the Council approved Resolution 15-1396 stating the County residents will not be charged for parking while using any County library. Subsequently, free parking has been provided at the Bethesda and Rockville Libraries, requiring annual taxpayer subsidies at a rate of about \$7,000 and \$84,000, respectively.
- [2.] Citizens are accustomed to paying for parking in urban centers, whether they are shopping, visiting their doctor's office, or attending a day-time Planning Board hearing in Silver Spring, a meeting at their Regional Service Center in Silver Spring, Bethesda, or Wheaton, or a daytime hearing or worksession of the County Council.
3. There is no efficient and effective means of providing free patron parking that would not allow for the potential for abuse, since library employees do not validate parking.
4. Many urban libraries in the Baltimore-Washington region, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in Washington, D.C. and the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, do not provide free parking for patrons.
5. On May 2, 2008 the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee recommended discontinuing the subsidy for patrons driving to the Rockville Library.
6. The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, which supported the policy of providing free parking for library patrons initially, advised the Executive and Council on May 7, 2008 that it had reversed its position. In addition to the reasons noted above, the Board notes that providing free parking is a regressive subsidy to those who can afford to own and operate cars, and would increase congestion.
7. By repealing Resolution 15-1396 the County could establish an appropriate parking arrangement for each library appropriate to its particular circumstances.]

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County [approves the following resolution] amends Resolution 15-1396 as follows:

[Resolution 15-1396 is repealed, effective July 1, 2008.] It is the policy of Montgomery County that County residents will not be charged for parking during the first two hours of use each day while using any County library located in areas where parking is normally charged. The County will move expeditiously to implement this policy and attempt to ensure that parking reserved for library users is not used by non-library users.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: June 30, 2009  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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By: Councilmembers Andrews, Elrich, Floreen, and Navarro

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SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY10 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Rockville Parking District Nondepartmental Account (NDA) - \$147,430

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than six members of the Council.
2. The County Council wishes to approve the balance of the County Executive's request for this NDA primarily to reimburse the City of Rockville for lost revenue due to free library patron parking.

	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Rockville Parking	\$0	\$147,430	\$0	\$147,430	General Fund
District NDA					Undesignated Reserves

3. Notice of a public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following action:

1. A special appropriation to the FY10 Operating Budget of the Rockville Parking District NDA is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Rockville Parking	\$0	\$147,430	\$0	\$147,430	General Fund
District NDA					Undesignated Reserves

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council