

AGENDA ITEM #3D
May 20, 2010

Action

MEMORANDUM

May 19, 2010

TO: County Council

FROM: Glenn Orlin, ^{Go}Deputy Council Staff Director

SUBJECT: **Action**—resolution to repeal Resolutions 15-1396 and 16-595, Policy on Parking at County Libraries

On April 22 the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee reviewed the Rockville Parking District NDA and unanimously recommended not providing free parking for library patrons in FY11, and thus not funding \$143,540 from the NDA to reimburse the City of Rockville for revenue foregone due to providing such free parking. The Committee directed that a resolution be prepared for introduction that would repeal the Resolutions 15-1396 (adopted on April 4, 2006, ©1) and 16-595 (adopted on June 10, 2008, ©2-3) establishing the free parking policy.

On April 22 the Executive also recommended reducing the NDA by \$143,540. On April 27 he forwarded a resolution for introduction that would repeal prior Resolutions 15-1396 and 16-595. His transmittal memo is ©4 and the draft resolution is on ©5.

Resolution No.: 15-1396
Introduced: February 28, 2006
Adopted: April 4, 2006

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Andrews, Denis, Perez, Floreen, Subin and Silverman

SUBJECT: Policy on Parking at County libraries

Background

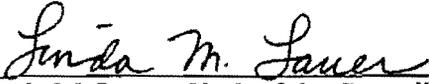
1. Libraries are an essential component of lifelong public education, and provide access to a world of information for all library users regardless of income.
2. The County Council wants to ensure that County policies encourage use of libraries.
3. The County currently provides free parking for library users at all County libraries, the sole exception being a charge for parking at Bethesda Regional Library until 2 p.m. on weekdays.
4. The County Council is concerned that charging library users for parking – which is planned at the new Rockville Regional Library under construction, at the planned new Silver Spring Library in downtown Silver Spring, and in place now at Bethesda Regional Library until 2 p.m. – may impose a barrier for the poor, may discourage other residents as well from using libraries, and establishes a de facto admissions fee for the many County residents who have no reasonable way of getting to a library other than driving.

Action

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

It is the policy of Montgomery County that County residents will not be charged for parking while using any County library. 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

CLERK'S NOTE: RESOLUTION 15-1396 HAS BEEN REPLACED BY 16-595.

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

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Leventhal, Berliner and Ervin

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

Background

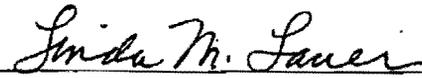
- [1.] On February 28, 2006 the Council approved Resolution 15-1396 stating the County residents will not be charged for parking while using any County library. Subsequently, free parking has been provided at the Bethesda and Rockville Libraries, requiring annual taxpayer subsidies at a rate of about \$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

PH 4/5/10 CP RUD



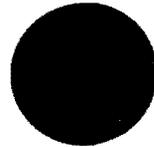
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2010

056352



TO: Nancy Floreen, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Isiah Leggett, County Executive

SUBJECT: Library Patron Parking

2010 APR 28 AM 10:16

RECEIVED
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL

On June 10, 2008, the Council approved Resolution 16-595 stating 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 has experienced a steep decline in revenues making the continuation of providing free parking to library patrons in areas where parking is normally charged unaffordable

In order to respond to the fiscal challenges facing the County, I am reluctantly forwarding with this memorandum for Council consideration a resolution to discontinue free parking at County libraries in areas where parking is normally charged. If approved, this resolution will assist in balancing the FY11 budget.

IL:tjs

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: May 4, 2010
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: The Policy on Parking at County Libraries

Background

1. On February 28, 2006 the Council approved Resolution 15-1396 stating that 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.
2. On June 10, 2008, the Council approved Resolution 16-595 stating 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."
3. The County has experienced a steep decline in revenues making the continuation of providing free parking to library patrons in areas where parking is normally charged unaffordable.

Action

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

Resolutions 15-1396 and 16-595 are repealed, effective July 1, 2010.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

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