

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 3. Honouring Our Veterans and Those Who Serve With Free Year-Round Parking in the City of Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

#### WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver issued an Information Bulletin on November 1, 2019, stating that all vehicles with BC veteran license plates will be exempt from parking fees from November 4th to 11th to mark Veterans' Week. The reasons included: "to recognize the service and dedication of Canadian military personnel to our country";
2. For many years the City of Vancouver has offered free parking on Remembrance Day and during Veterans Week for vehicles with valid BC Veteran License Plates parked at City of Vancouver parking meters, Easy Park lots, surface lots, and Park Board operated parking facilities; including Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and all Vancouver community centres;
3. The City of Surrey carried policy recommendations in a report dated November 3, 2008, to adopt as a policy that vehicles bearing a "veteran" license plate be granted complimentary parking on a year round basis at all City of Surrey on-street parking meters";
  - i) The report and recommendations in the report titled *Complimentary Parking for Veterans at On-Street Parking Meters in Surrey*, states that in analysis of previous data, allowing Veterans to Park for free at on-street parking meters, when comparing to subsequent years "there was no significant impact on parking meter revenues";
4. Examples of other municipalities across Canada and their commitment to providing free parking for veterans include:
  - i) The City of Red Deer: The City provides a parking pass program for Veterans (plates issued by all provinces). This program is administered by the Canadian Legion and is free of charge to the Veteran unless a replacement hang tag is required and then \$20 is charged by the City. The passes are good for five years and then must be re-applied for. This pass allows the Veteran to park at a street parking meter for the time restriction in that area. With the Legion's administration, they ensure that the person is a Veteran and is responsible for verification of any documentation;
  - ii) The City of Regina, Saskatchewan allows a veteran to park at a meter if they have a valid, properly displayed Veteran Design License Plate issued by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance or the equivalent in other provinces in Canada;

- iii) The City of White Rock offers four hours a day of free parking in pay parking areas for all veteran plates;
  - iv) The City of London, Ontario: Holders of a veteran's license plate can park at any on-street meter without depositing coins for the limit of the meter;
5. The ICBC website states "In recognition our Canadian veterans, we've created a special plate to honour your service." It lists the following requirements for eligibility for veterans plates in B.C. as follows:

You are eligible to apply for veteran license plates if you own or lease an eligible vehicle, and were honourably discharged from, or are currently serving in one of the following:

- i) WWII, Korea, Gulf War, the Balkan Wars, Afghanistan, or other UN Peacekeeping Missions as a member of:
  - The Canadian Armed Forces, or
  - An Allied Force, or
  - The Canadian or Allied War Time Merchant Navy
- ii) A member of the Canadian Armed Forces, Regular or Reserves, who successfully completed basic training
- iii) UN or NATO Operations as a member of:
  - The Canadian Armed Forces, or
  - A UN or NATO Alliance Force serving in an Operation with the Canadian Armed Forces
- iv) Similarly qualified member of a British Commonwealth of Nations Armed Force who are honourably discharged. Unfortunately, currently serving members are not eligible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to explore the possibility of a process to allow eligible holders of a BC veterans license plate and current serving members of the Canadian Forces to park their vehicle for free, subject to the time limits already in place, at City of Vancouver parking meters, Easy Park lots, surface lots, and Park Board operated parking facilities; including Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and all Vancouver Community Centres;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council by October 2020 with recommendations and plans to deliver a process by November 11, 2020, for year-round free parking for Veterans and current serving members of the Canadian Forces, at all parking locations currently offered by the City of Vancouver during the week of Remembrance Day.

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