



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON CITY EMPLOYEE PARKING PROPOSAL

Background

Annapolis Alderman Joe Budge introduced legislation (Ordinance 28-17), supported by the Pantelides Administration, that caps the number of City employees parking in Noah Hillman Garage at 20 per weekday. While the mayor supports the concept, he is requesting that the number of City employees allowed in the garage to be higher than the 20 that are included in the proposed legislation. Currently, City employees average 80 parking spaces per weekday in Hillman with a maximum allowable of 120.

1. Why is the city doing this?

Our city's long-term prosperity depends on fostering a vibrant business community and offering visitors the best possible experience. There is broad agreement that we must increase public parking availability in the Historic District to achieve both goals. As far back as 2007, the Annapolis City Council declared that "Municipal garages and lots in the City Center are primarily for customers, patrons and clients whose stay may exceed two hours." (Annapolis City Code 12.04.040.3).

2. When does this policy go into effect?

The City Council must adopt new legislation in order for it to go into effect. If the City Council adopts it, the policy would be effective July 1, 2017.

3. Is this a new idea?

No. Annapolis has had a long and public discussion about the benefits of expanding public parking in the Hillman Garage. The Annapolis City Council and the last three Mayoral Administrations have discussed the community and economic benefits of transitioning city employees to satellite garages. Multiple reports published by volunteer transportation committees have explored the benefits of transitioning City employees to new parking facilities in order free up parking for the public. Further, a review of Hillman occupancy rates shows the garage is full on average 1.5 days per workweek, with that number increasing significantly during legislative session and summer.

4. Where will impacted employees park?

This Administration is providing employees new parking options. City employees currently parking in Hillman Garage will be transitioned to the Gotts Court Garage on

Northwest Street, Knighton Garage on West Street, and Park Place Garage off Spa Circle.

5. Will employees now have to pay for parking?

No. Parking will remain free for all affected employees. This administration is not requiring employees to pay, like some nearby cities, such as Richmond, Va., that require city employees to pay full market rate.

6. Will employees have reserved spaces?

Employees will still receive weekday parking passes just as they do now.

7. What is the City doing to make our commute easier?

The Pantelides Administration will provide a new, free Circulator Shuttle specifically designated to give city employees a quick and comfortable ride from satellite lots to City Hall.

8. Is the city taking steps to comply with the Americans with Disability Act?

Yes. All City garages are ADA compliant. Shuttle buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts and drivers will announce all major stops along the shuttle route.

9. Which employees get to stay in Hillman Garage?

Parameters are currently being set by the Administration per employee medical needs. In addition, inspectors and others who need periodic daily access to Hillman will be issued passes. Each department will be issued 3 “floating” passes that can be signed in and out through the department director.