



City of
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Oakland Announces Parking “Holiday” in Support of Local Holiday Shopping

Oakland, CA — In the spirit of the holidays and to stimulate shopping in Oakland’s commercial districts in support of local merchants, the City of Oakland announced today that it will offer **free parking** for the next two Saturdays: December 17 and 24.

“We encourage shoppers to support our local merchants during this holiday season,” said **Mayor Quan**. “The free parking will make it that much more convenient. However, we do remind shoppers to check their watches to be sure they move their cars before the posted limit expires so that other shoppers may also have the opportunity to take advantage of this holiday ‘gift’ from the City.” She noted that the posted time limits on City meters are designed to encourage parking turnover for the benefit of local merchants.

In addition, effective today, the City is launching a pilot program that will give drivers a five-minute “grace period” on the expiration time at multi-space parking meters, and will allow parking enforcement officers to cancel citations if a driver approaches the officer prior to the ticket being issued.

“When you’re parked at a meter, there’s nothing more frustrating than being one or two minutes late to your car, only to discover a hefty fine on your windshield. We wanted to do something to help alleviate that frustration and encourage people to shop locally,” said **City Councilmember Jane Brunner**. “This pilot program is a small action that we hope will have a very big impact—both on drivers and on our merchants which are keeping our commercial districts throughout the City vibrant and thriving.”

Parking “Holiday” Next Two Saturdays

On Saturday, December 17 and Saturday, December 24, parking at all parking meters will be free for the posted period of time (30 minutes, 1 hour or 2 hours). The free parking “holiday” applies to both standard meters and the parking kiosks that are located in many commercial districts.

Standard parking rules and time limits apply—if shoppers need additional parking time, they will need to move their car across the street if it is a two-way street, or park around the block if it is a one-way street. The City will be monitoring parked cars on a regular basis.

As usual, the Clay Street garage at 14th and Clay Streets in Downtown Oakland is open to the public free of charge all day Saturday year-round.

The two-Saturday parking “holiday” will result in the loss of about \$125,000 in parking revenue, which will be absorbed by higher-than-projected revenues in other areas.

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Five-minute Grace Period Pilot Program

