


MEMORANDUM

Terence J. Ryan
Parking Director

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Terence Ryan, Parking Director

CC: Conor Baldwin (CFO)
Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD)
Elizabeth Oltman (Traffic Eng.)
E. Lamarche (VA)

DATE: September 19, 2023

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: June 13, 2023 – C. Mercier/Chau – Request City Mgr. Find ways and means to allow free parking for all combat war veterans and refer motion to Veterans Agent and Parking Director.

MOTION RESPONSE: August 22, 2023 – C. Rourke/C. Yem Req. City Mgr. look into free parking for veterans with noted indicator on vehicle license plate.

In discussions with the Veterans Agent, Eric Lamarche, the Parking Department has investigated the option to allow combat veterans free parking within the city. While the Veterans Services could provide verification of veteran status, there is no way for the Parking Department to determine who is driving the vehicle, when said vehicle is parked.

The Parking Department can register a license plate into our enforcement system to allow parking, but the driver of the car cannot be verified as the person entitled to use the placard. Meter enforcement cannot request verification of veteran status on the street in a situation where usage is in question.

The city currently utilizes parking placards that are assigned to city employees and the use of these placards is restricted to the employee for work purposes only, if otherwise used, an employee can be reprimanded accordingly. This application cannot be used for a veteran designation.

There are currently specific spaces allocated to veterans and these spaces have signage posted as such. I did reach out to the New England Parking Council (NEPC) membership for comments, and there was no respondent that indicated that they had this privilege, for the same reason that it comes down to who is driving the car.

Sincerely,

Terence Ryan