



Media Advisory

Department of Public Works

Providing a clean, safe and healthy environment

Richmond, Virginia

The Honorable Mayor Levar M. Stoney

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Initiative to Increase Disabled Parking Access Begins May 28

~ New payment for parking will fund Vision Zero ~

RICHMOND, VA – The City of Richmond is taking action to combat persistent abuse and fraudulent use of free disabled parking throughout the city, which is limiting access to these designated spaces for shoppers and visitors with disabilities.

A recent survey revealed downtown parking spaces designated for disabled people are filled with vehicles displaying disabled parking placards, but for extended periods of time far exceeding the accommodation purposes of the spaces. This abuse of the placards is limiting parking access to other placard holders. The survey also found downtown employees and business owners illegally using placards while at work is further compromising and limiting the availability of disabled parking spaces.

To address this issue, the administration introduced, and Richmond City Council adopted, [Ord. No. 2018-233](#). Beginning May 28, payment for parking will apply to and include disabled parking spaces in the City of Richmond. Specially marked meters with blue caps will be installed at these designated parking spaces throughout the city or be included in payments accepted at kiosk locations. **Parking fees collected from these marked spaces will be designated to support Vision Zero initiatives such as maintaining crosswalks, access ramps and audio crossing signals.**

During the first week, however, violators who park without paying will be issued warnings instead of citations. This initiative is part of the city's commitment to ensuring on-street parking is managed effectively for *short-term* access in business districts, where abuse of the disabled parking spaces is most prevalent.

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We're Social! For updates on DPW-related projects, activities and events visit us on Twitter @DPWRichmondVA.

The City of Richmond Department of Public Works (DPW) is one of only 146 accredited public works agencies in the United States. DPW's portfolio comprises a wide array of services to include leaf collection; street, sidewalk and alley maintenance; trash collection; recycling; urban forestry; signs; signals and pavement markings; grass cutting; graffiti removal; and parking. In addition, DPW issues permits for working in the city's right-of-way, manages Richmond's Bike Share program and maintains the fleet of city vehicles. DPW's operating budget comes from the general fund of the City of Richmond. For more information about DPW services, [click here](#) or call 3-1-1.