Chapter 11-44 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS

11-44.010 Legislative purpose.

This chapter is enacted in response to the serious adverse effects caused to certain areas and neighborhoods of Santa Rosa by motor vehicle congestion, particularly the long-term parking of motor vehicles on the streets of such areas and neighborhoods by nonresidents. As set forth in more specific detail in Section 11-44.020, long-term parking by nonresidents threatens the health, safety and welfare of all the residents of Santa Rosa. In order to protect and promote the integrity of these areas and neighborhoods, it is necessary to enact the parking regulations restricting unlimited parking by nonresidents, to provide the opportunity for residents to park near their homes. Uniform parking regulations restricting residents and nonresidents alike would not serve the public interest; rather, such regulations would contribute to neighborhood decline while ignoring the public transit alternatives to automobile travel available to nonresidents. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

11-44.020 Legislative findings.

(A) General Findings. The City Council finds, as a result of public testimony, evidence generated by both professional urban planning studies and derived from other sources, that the continued vitality of Santa Rosa depends on the preservation of safe, healthy, and attractive neighborhoods and other residential areas therein. The council further finds that one factor that has detracted from the safety, health and attractiveness of neighborhoods and other residential areas of the City is the excessive and burdensome practice of nonresidents of certain areas and neighborhoods parking their vehicles for extended periods of time.

(B) Specific Findings. The following specific legislative findings of the City Council in support of residential permit parking are set forth as illustrations only and do not exhaust the subject of the factual basis supporting its adoption:

1. The safety, health and welfare of the residents of Santa Rosa can be greatly enhanced by maintenance of the attractiveness and livability of its neighborhoods and other residential areas.

2. A large proportion of Santa Rosa residents possess automobiles and, as a result, are daily faced with the need to store these automobiles in or near their residences.

3. Certain neighborhoods and areas of Santa Rosa do not have sufficient on or off-street space to accommodate the convenient parking of motor vehicles by residents thereof in the vicinity of their homes. To the extent that such facilities do not exist, the program set forth in this chapter is designed to encourage the maximum feasible utilization of off-street parking facilities.

4. Such areas as described in subdivision 3 of this subsection are often further burdened by influxes of motor vehicles owned by nonresidents which compete for the inadequate available on-street parking spaces.

5. There further exist certain parking “attractors” within Santa Rosa, such as hospital and school complexes, employment centers and locations convenient for commuter parking, which further exacerbate resident parking problems.

6. Unnecessary vehicle miles, noise, pollution and strains on interpersonal relationships caused by the conditions set forth in this chapter work unacceptable hardships on residents of these neighborhoods and other residential areas causing the deterioration of air quality, safety, tranquility and other values available in an urban residential environment.

7. If allowed to continue unchecked, these adverse effects on the residents of Santa Rosa will contribute to a further decline of the living conditions therein, a reduction in the attractiveness of residing within Santa Rosa, and consequent injury to the general public welfare.

8. The system of residential permit parking as enacted by this chapter will serve the public safety, health and welfare of all the residents of Santa Rosa by (a) reducing unnecessary personal motor vehicle travel, noise and pollution, and (b) promoting
improvements in air quality, the convenience and attractiveness of urban residential living, and the increased use of public mass transit facilities available now and in the future. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

**11-44.030 Definitions.**

(A) "Designated residential parking permit area" means any contiguous area upon which the City Council imposes parking limitations pursuant to the authority granted by this chapter.

(B) "Nonresident vehicle" means a motor vehicle not eligible to be issued a residential parking permit, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this chapter, for the specific area in which it is parked.

(C) "Parking permit" means a permit issued under this chapter which, when displayed upon a vehicle, as described in this chapter, shall exempt the vehicle from parking time restrictions established pursuant to this chapter.

(D) "Motor vehicle" includes an automobile, truck, motorcycle or other motor-driven form of transportation not in excess of 8,000 pounds gross weight. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

**11-44.040 Permit parking exemption.**

(A) A motor vehicle on which is displayed a valid residential parking permit as provided for in this chapter shall be permitted to stand or be parked in the residential permit parking area for which the permit has been issued without being limited by time restrictions established by this chapter. Any vehicle which does not display such a permit shall be subject to the parking regulations and consequent penalties in effect for such area.

(B) A residential parking permit shall not guarantee or reserve to the holder thereof an on-street parking space within the designated residential permit parking area.

(C) This chapter shall not be interpreted or applied in a manner which shall abridge or alter regulations established by other laws. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

**11-44.050 Designation of a residential permit parking area.**

(A) The City Council shall consider for designation as a residential permit parking area any proposed area for which an application has been submitted which meets and satisfies the following requirements:

(1) The application shall contain a description or a map showing the proposed residential permit parking area.

(2) The description or map shall be followed in the application by the following statement:

We, the undersigned, are residents of the proposed residential permit parking area described in this petition. We understand that, if this area is designated as a residential permit parking area, certain restrictions will be placed upon on-street parking within the designated area; and residents of the area will be eligible to obtain permits exempting them from such parking restrictions; that the annual fee for a residential parking permit shall be charged by the City of Santa Rosa. We, the undersigned, hereby request that the City Council of the City of Santa Rosa consider this application for establishment of the above described area as a "residential permit parking area".

(3) The statement shall be followed by a signature, printed name, address and date of signing of the application by adults residing in at least 60 percent of the housing units in the proposed area and not less than 60 percent of the housing units along each block front within the area.

(B) Upon receipt by the City Council of an application as described in subsection A of this section, the Council may, by resolution, after public hearing:

(1) Establish a residential parking area based upon application and adopt any regulations and time restrictions determined by
the City Council to be reasonable and necessary in the area. The Council may change the boundaries of the area proposed by the application.

(C) Notice of the hearing shall be posted at least 10 days prior to the hearing on all blocks proposed to be included in the residential permit parking area. (Ord. 2752 § 1, 1989; Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

11-44.060 Modification.

After public hearing with notice as provided in Section 11-44.050, the Council may, by resolution, modify a designated residential permit parking area. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

11-44.070 Permits.

(A) Residential parking permits with a term of one year shall be issued by the Department of Transit and Parking in accordance with requirements set forth in this chapter. Each permit shall identify the residential permit parking area for which it is issued.

(B) Applicants for permits shall be required to present proof of residence within the area designated as a residential permit parking zone and proof of current registration for the vehicle for which application is made. No more than three permits shall be issued for each qualified dwelling unit. No more than one permit shall be issued for each vehicle for which an application is made. The Director of Transit and Parking may further limit the number of permits issued to a multifamily residential development which provides parking for its residents.

(C) The Director of Transit and Parking may issue rules and regulations governing the issuance and display of residential parking permits. (Ord. 2752 § 2, 1989; Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

11-44.080 Permit applications.

A residential parking permit may only be issued to an applicant who:

(A) Is currently a resident of the area for which the permit is to be issued; and

(B) Is the registered owner of the motor vehicle for which the permit is to be issued. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

11-44.090 Posting of residential permit parking area.

The Director of Transit and Parking shall cause signs to be erected in each of residential permit parking area which indicates the time limitation, period of the day for its application, and conditions under which permit parking shall be exempt. (Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)

11-44.100 Violations.

(A) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this chapter:

1. For any person to stand or park a motor vehicle without a current permit properly displayed at a curb within a residential permit parking area for a period of time exceeding the time limitation established by the City Council for the area. Motor vehicles identified as used by disabled persons meeting the requirements of Section 22511.5 of the California Vehicle Code shall be exempt from this section.

2. For any person to falsely represent himself or herself as eligible for a parking permit or to furnish false information in an application therefor.

(3) Deleted.
(4) For any person to copy, reproduce or otherwise bring into existence a facsimile or counterfeit parking permit or permits without written authorization from the Department of Transit and Parking.

(5) For any person to knowingly use or display a facsimile or counterfeit parking permit in order to evade time limitations on parking applicable in a residential permit parking area.

(6) For any person to knowingly commit any act which is prohibited by the terms of this chapter or any resolution enacted by authority granted by this chapter.

(B) Every person who violates any provision of subsection (A) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ord. 3518 § 9, 2001; Ord. 3238 § 22(a), 1996; Ord. 2834 § 1, 1990; Ord. 2713 § 1 (part), 1988)
PETITION FOR APPLICATION TO CITY-WIDE RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM

STREET OR AREA DESCRIPTION:

We, the undersigned, are residents of the proposed residential permit parking area described in this petition. We understand that, if this area is designated as a residential permit parking area, certain restrictions will be placed upon on-street parking within the designated area: and residents of the area will be eligible to obtain permits exempting them from such parking restrictions; that the annual fee for a residential parking permit shall be charged by the City of Santa Rosa. We, the undersigned, hereby request that the City Council of the City of Santa Rosa consider this application for establishment of the area described above and in the map attached to this petition as a "residential permit parking area."

We request parking regulations consistent with those currently posted in the designated zone this application seeks to join. Or state requested regulations if a new area:

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Block Representative: ___________________________ Phone No: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Petition Coordinator: ___________________________ Phone No: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________
Q1: What is the reason for a neighborhood to have a parking time limit?
A: Certain neighborhoods within the City of Santa Rosa are heavily impacted by outside sources and experience a shortage of parking, such as the neighborhoods near the Junior College, those near the fairgrounds and the downtown business district. Parking time limits allow for better parking availability throughout peak times during the day.

Q2: How does an area qualify to be part of the Residential Parking Permit Program?
A: To qualify, the area must be heavily impacted by outside sources and a petition supporting the program needs to be signed by 60% of the residents. Approval of a residential permit zone is a matter of City Council determination.

Q3: Where am I allowed to park with a residential permit?
A: The residential permit areas are designated by color on the posted time limit signs. Permit holders may park in the designated color zone, within a block of their residence.

Q4: With a time limit, are Residents the only people allowed to park on the street?
A: No, anyone may park on the street for the allotted time limit. Residents with a valid residential permit displayed are exempt from the time limits.

Q5: Why do I have to pay to park in front of my own house?
A: A residential permit area is initiated by the residents of the neighborhood. Residential permit areas are optional and in absence of the program, a fee is not required. If a residential permit zone is implemented, a minimal fee is collected for processing purposes.

Q6: What is required to prove eligibility for a residential parking permit?
A: A completed Residential Parking Permit Application, proof of residence, current registration for each motor vehicle needing a Permit, current Photo Identification, and payment of the $20 processing fee (add $1 for postage if the transaction is to be handled through the mail). The $20 processing fee is applied to each permit if purchased or renewed separately. The processing fee is established by City Council and is subject to change.

Q7: How long is the permit valid?
A: Permits are valid from January 1st through December 31st or July 1st through June 30th, depending on the permit zone and regardless of the date of issuance. The permit must be renewed annually.

Q8: Will the $20.00 fee be prorated if I get a permit mid-year?
A: No, the $20.00 is a processing fee that helps pay for the administrative costs and materials required by the Residential Permit Program.
Q9: How many permits may I purchase?
A: Up to three permits may be purchased with three valid vehicle registrations for a single family dwelling. For apartments, and residences located within combined residential and commercial areas, one permit may be purchased.

Q10: Why is there a limit on the number of permits that can be purchased?
A: In order to ensure adequate parking availability for all residents in a given area, it is necessary to place a limit on the number of permits per household. The number of permits allowed for each area depends on the initial availability of parking and the primary use of the area.

Q11: Can I purchase a guest permit to use specifically for visitors if I have only one car?
A: A guest permit is available for purchase in a situation where the resident has no off-street parking, i.e. garage or driveway. Prior to issuing a guest permit, a field check is done to determine if the resident qualifies for a guest permit.

Q12: Is there a way for visitors to be exempt from the posted time limits?
A: You may transfer your permit to a visitor for their use, provided their vehicle has a current registration. Two cars may not share one permit simultaneously. If you have more visitors than permits, the vehicles not displaying a permit are subject to the posted time limit and must move off of the block within the time limit.

Q13: Can I use my permit for my motor home or my boat?
A: No, City code allows for the issuance of Residential Parking Permits to motor vehicles. A "Motor vehicle" is defined as an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or other motor-driven form of transportation not in excess of 8,000 pounds gross weight (Ordinance 2713). The objective of the ordinance is to preserve the safety, health and attractiveness of neighborhoods and other residential areas of the City of Santa Rosa.

Q14: Can I get a bumper sticker instead of a hanging paper permit?
A: No, the permit program is administered through hanging paper permits. One of the benefits of having a hanging paper permit is that it can be transferred to a visitor’s vehicles.

Q15: What are the limitations of the program?
A: A permit holder is not guaranteed a parking space and is not exempt from other traffic controls and regulations existing in the residential permit parking area.

Q16: What level of enforcement can be expected in a residential permit area?
A: Residential permit areas are patrolled regularly as staffing allows. Additional enforcement may occur in response to neighborhood complaints.
Q17: If I have a permit, can I still be issued a citation?
A: Permit holders must comply with all City and State vehicle code requirements. Citations may be issued for violations including, but not restricted to the following:
- parked in excess of the time limit and a permit is not properly displayed.
- parked in a driveway and the back end protrudes onto the sidewalk.
- parked facing the wrong direction.
- parked for more than 72 hours.

Q18: Why am I cited for forgetting to display my permit – the Enforcement Officers should know my car?
A: The rules of the residential permit program have been established for consistent and equitable use of the permits and parking in the area. In order to achieve the objective, the officers will follow the rules of the program and cite any vehicle not displaying a residential permit.

Q19: Do I have any recourse if I have a permit and I am issued a citation?
A: Citations are eligible for review if they are contested within 21 calendar days of the citation issue date. Citations are reviewed based on set criteria for permit holders. There is no guarantee citations will be dismissed simply because the contestant has purchased a permit.

Q20: How can I get my street removed from the residential permit zone?
A: A petition supporting the removal needs to be signed by 60% of the residents and approval is then a matter of City Council determination.