

Memorandum No. 10-13

TO: Mayor and City Commissioners
FROM: Doug Russell, City Manager *DR*
RE: Downtown Parking
DATE: January 19, 2010

City Staff had a Commissioner request a discussion item be placed on the agenda to consider an ordinance allowing the towing of cars that are parked in streets occupied by the activities of a respective special event (i.e. Ribfest, Riverboat Days, etc.)

Currently, when there is a street closure for special events, we allow the event coordinators to place barricades on the street around 3AM in advance of the event, allowing cars to leave the street, but preventing new cars from parking. In order to tow cars that remain in the area, an ordinance would have to be enacted, or the current ordinance modified.

Below is our current parking ordinance in the central business district.

Sec. 14-159. Night parking in the central business district.

It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle in the central business district of the city between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on any day except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The central business district is designated with Fourth Street as the North boundary, Pine Street as the East boundary, Levee Street as the south boundary and Broadway as the West boundary. If an emergency snow declaration has been issued, then for the period of time that such declaration is in effect, parking shall not be permitted between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in the afore described areas.

Violation of this ordinance does not result in towing. Towing is currently done after a 24 hour violation, except during snow emergencies.

Several items to consider with this discussion are:

- A. The expectations of the public
 - a. We currently have signage for parking regulations- special events signage may not be easily achieved
 - b. Currently we tow after a 24-hour period
- B. How will special events be designated
- C. How is information for special events fairly presented to the public for notification

Recommendation: The recommendation is to discuss and provide staff direction on possible alteration of parking regulations pertaining to special events.