

AGENDA ITEM #4

MEETING: Community Health, Environment, & Culture Committee

DATE: December 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Government and Public Affairs (GPA) and Center City Development Office (CCDO)

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jeff Coyle and John Jacks

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-wide

SUBJECT: Parking and Transit Public Comment Pilot Program

SUMMARY:

This presentation will provide the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee with a proposed pilot program to provide free parking and transit assistance for residents who participate in Public Comment. The presentation will outline the pilot program's structure, timeline and proposed metrics.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In November of 2018, Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Councilwoman Ana Sandoval filed an addendum to a Council Consideration Request regarding Advancing Public Participation. Within the addendum, the Mayor and Councilwoman recommended that the City provide public transportation and parking assistance to members of the public attending City meetings.

Since that time and throughout the pandemic, the City has added new remote options for public participation, including the ability to provide public comments and register to speak wherever a resident may be.

As an additional avenue for participation in the policy-making process, the City and VIA are proposing a pilot program for parking and transit assistance for residents who participate in Public Comment.

Parking: The City's pilot program would provide two hours of validated parking at City Tower Garage for residents who participate in Wednesday evening City Council Public Comment Sessions.

Transit: The City's pilot program with VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) would provide free fares for residents who participate in City Council Public Comment Sessions.

The pilot program would include developing and refining a mechanism for residents to register for validated parking or transit assistance if they sign up to speak for Public Comment, whether they register online or in person.

The City will measure registrations and actual usage of the service during the pilot program and report on its performance prior to making a final recommendation.

ISSUE:

GPA, CCDO and VIA will brief the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee on the pilot program.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.