

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 97-512
OCTOBER 20, 1997 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:

**REMOVAL OF PARKING METERS
ADJACENT TO FEDERAL OFFICE
BUILDING**

SUBMITTED BY:

**RICHARD CLARK
ACTING CITY MANAGER**

SYNOPSIS –

On October 6, 1997, by Roll Call No. 97-3341, Council voted to refer the issue of the reinstallation of parking meters around the Federal Office Building on Second Avenue and Third Street to the City Manager and Legal Department. Since that time, the parking meters have been bagged. On October 13, 1997, the City received the attached letter from Glen Overton, Regional Administrator (6A), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), requesting the elimination of perimeter parking at the Federal Building.

FISCAL IMPACT –

As indicated by the attached letter dated November 17, 1995, if the 16 parking meters were removed from Second Avenue and Third Street surrounding the Federal Office Building, the City would not receive an estimated \$10,000 in parking revenues. The City had requested, if the decision is made to eliminate the parking, consideration be given to reimbursing the City for this revenue loss. Mr. Overton has indicated the GSA does not have funding available to reimburse a city for lost parking revenues.

RECOMMENDATION –

Removal of 16 parking meters surrounding the Federal Office Building (210 Walnut) along Second Avenue and Third Street.

BACKGROUND –

In response to the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building on April 19, 1995, bags were

temporarily placed over the 16 parking meters which provided parking directly along Second Avenue and Third Street, adjacent to the Federal Office Building, 210 Walnut Street. By October 1995, the Traffic and Transportation Department had received complaints concerning the fact that the parking meters around the building were still hooded and the difficulties experienced by parents picking up and leaving children at the Federal Day Care Center.

The bags remained on the parking meters, awaiting a response from GSA regarding the parking restrictions. Traffic and Transportation had intermittent contact with GSA regarding these parking spaces through 1996. It was understood the parking would remain restricted until the GSA improved the security of the building through remodeling, construction, and landscaping.

In a letter dated June 12, 1997 (attached), David Benedict, Director of the Iowa Property Management Center, GSA, indicated the Federal Building Security Committee voted to reinstate parking on Second Avenue and Third Street adjacent to the Federal Building upon completion of landscaping and security barriers. They requested that the parking be reinstated and the meters reinstalled, as well as a “ No Parking at Anytime” reinstated on Walnut Avenue between Second Avenue and Third Street. It was also understood that handicapped spaces would be designated and an area would be provided along Third Street for child care parents to park while dropping off and picking up their children.

Therefore, on October 1, 1997, the Traffic and Transportation Division reinstated the parking meters. After concerns were raised by Council at the October 6, 1997 Council meeting, Traffic and Transportation once again placed bags over the meters and disallowed parking adjacent to the Federal Office Building.

In a letter dated October 8, 1997, GSA indicated their desire to permanently eliminate the parking on the perimeter of the Federal Office Building. Thus is the recommendation presented to Council.

Attachments