To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Phillip L. Harrington, Director, Department of Public Works

Subject: Extend Residential Preferential Parking Permit Program on Sections of Blake Street, Ashby Avenue, and Prince Street

RECOMMENDATION
Conduct a public hearing and upon its conclusion, adopt a Resolution amending Resolution No. 56,508-N.S. Sections 25C, 25J and 25M by adding subsections to extend Residential Preferential Permit Parking on three city blocks of Blake Street, Ashby Avenue, and Prince Street.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION
Funding of $2,543 for Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) sign installation is available in the FY 2018 budget in the General Fund, 010-5505-431.13-01 and 010-5505-431.55-20.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS
In conformance with Berkeley Municipal Code Section 14.72.050(A)(1), staff verified that residents submitted signatures on qualifying petitions representing a numerical majority of dwellings wishing to “opt-in” to the RPP program for (1) both sides of Blake Street between McGee Avenue and Grant Street; (2) the north side of Ashby Avenue between Wheeler Street and Fulton Street; and (3) both sides of Prince Street between Ellis Street and Harper Street. Staff verified that at least 75% of available curb spaces were occupied during mid-morning and mid-afternoon observation periods at these locations.

The addition of three blocks to the RPP Program in existing Areas C, J, and M will have a minimal impact on enforcement capabilities. Each RPP addition, however, tends to result in slightly diminished enforcement for all other existing permit areas, due to slight increases in patrol areas for parking enforcement officers.

BACKGROUND
Prior to 1989, the City of Berkeley established a system of Resident Preferential Parking in response to adverse effects of motor vehicle congestion in certain areas and neighborhoods, particularly the long-term parking of motor vehicles by nonresidents on
the streets of such areas and neighborhoods. Uniform parking regulations restricting residents and nonresidents alike were deemed not to serve the public interest as they would disproportionately impact residents, while lack of any restriction would not encourage nonresidents to consider public transit or alternatives to automobile travel. In order to protect and promote the integrity of these areas and neighborhoods, the City enacted parking regulations restricting unlimited parking by nonresidents in five designated RPP areas, while providing residents in those areas the opportunity to park near their homes using permits. After an associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified September 27, 1988, City Council approved expansion of the RPP Program on February 7, 1989. By Resolution 54,648-N.S., Council expanded the five original RPP areas to the current boundary in accordance with that EIR. That analysis was done for a Study Area shown in Attachment 3, and fourteen RPP areas (A-N) have been designated to date. While permit parking has been established for the majority of blocks within the EIR study area, there are approximately 300 additional blocks that do not presently have permit parking restrictions.

The RPP Program currently allows residents to petition the City to “opt-in” or “opt-out” of the Program. The process to install RPP controls requires submittal of a petition signed by residents (including tenants of rental properties) of at least 51% of dwellings sited along the affected block, and a parking survey of those blocks that shows at least 75% of available on-street parking spaces are occupied during the mid-morning and midafternoon time periods. In addition, residents of a block petitioning to opt-in should be included in existing residential Study Area boundaries covered by the EIR.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Expansion of the RPP Program to include additional blocks may have a minor beneficial environmental effect. It may reduce greenhouse gases generated by commuters searching for parking who “cold start” their vehicles (i.e., moving a car without warming up the engine), or by drivers moving their cars to new locations after the two-hour parking limit expires. Incremental expansion of the RPP Program may, however, make alternative transportation options more attractive. A modal shift by commuters to walking, bicycling, public transportation, or carpooling may also lead to a decrease in greenhouse gases.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
Because the required number of households on the subject blocks have signed a petition, and as parking surveys show more than 75% occupancy of curbside parking, these blocks meet the requirements set forth by the Berkeley Municipal Code for inclusion into the RPP Program.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
Council may allow unrestricted parking to remain on these streets. Yet, Council has acted previously to approve “opting in” of blocks where the requisite number of
households signed a petition requesting RPP control, and where the parking utilization exceeded 75%.

CONTACT PERSON
Farid Javandel, Transportation Manager, Public Works (510) 981-7010
Matthew Cotterill, Traffic Engineering Assistant, Public Works (510) 981-6433

Attachments:
1. Resolution
2. Public Hearing Notice
3. Map of Street Sections Opting Into Program
RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

EXTEND RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM ON THREE STREETS

WHEREAS, in 1989 the City Council established the expanded RPP program to protect and promote the integrity of residential areas and neighborhoods by restricting unlimited parking by nonresidents in designated RPP areas, while providing the opportunity for residents with permits in those areas to park near their homes; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Municipal Code Section 14.72.050.A.1, Designation of a Residential Permit Parking Area, allows residents to petition the City to "opt-in" or "opt-out" of the program and requires submittal of a petition containing signatures of residents of at least 51% of dwellings on the affected block; and

WHEREAS, residents of at least 51% of the dwellings on the following blocks have petitioned to "opt-in" to Residential Permit Parking:
  1. both sides of Blake Street between Mcgee Avenue and Grant Street;
  2. the north side of Ashby Avenue between Wheeler Street and Fulton Street;
  3. both sides of Prince Street between Ellis Street and Harper Street;

and City staff concurs; and

WHEREAS, staff has conducted field observations and determined at least 75% of available on-street parking spaces are occupied during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon time periods meeting the conditions of BMC14.72.050.A.1.f; and

WHEREAS, the designation of these blocks as a residential permit parking area will not be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare of persons residing in the area designated in accordance with the EIR certified September 27, 1988; and

WHEREAS, the $2,543 implementation cost is available in FY 2018 General Fund (Fund 010) for Public Works Traffic Maintenance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the following subsections of Section 25 of Resolution No. 56,508-N.S. are hereby added to read as follows:

Section 25C BLAKE STREET, both sides, between Mcgee Avenue and Grant Street

Section 25J ASHBY AVENUE, north side, between Wheeler Street and Fulton Street

Section 25M PRINCE STREET, both sides, between Ellis Street and Harper Street
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2134 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY

EXTEND RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING PROGRAM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.

The Public Works Department is proposing to conduct a public hearing and, if recommendations are approved, adopt a Resolution amending Sections 25C, 25J, and 25M of Resolution No. 56,508-N.S. by adding subsections to extend residential permit parking on both sides of Blake Street between McGee Avenue and Grant Street; the north side of Ashby Avenue between Wheeler Street and Fulton Street; and both sides of Prince Street between Ellis Street and Harper Street.

The Residential Permit Parking Program allows for residents to petition the City to "opt-in" or "opt-out" of the Program. Complying with program requirements, residents of the blocks under consideration for opting into the Residential Permit Parking Program have submitted the qualifying signatures on petitions and also have at least 75% of the curb spaces occupied during the morning and mid-afternoon observation periods. Adding blocks within the existing residential study area boundaries through evaluations by an EIR study certified on September 27, 1988, and in accordance with California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, are categorically exempt as defined by Section 15.162(c).

A copy of the agenda material for this hearing will be available on the City’s website at www.CityofBerkeley.info as of January 11, 2018.

For further information, please contact Matthew Cotterill, Traffic Engineering Assistant at (510) 981-6433.

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet.

Communications to the Berkeley City Council are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the City Clerk. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk at 981-6900 or clerk@cityofberkeley.info for further information.

Posted: January 11, 2018  
Posting is in accordance with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 14.72

I hereby certify that the Notice for this Public Hearing of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City’s website, on January 11, 2018.

Mark Numainville, City Clerk
This map is for reference purposes only. Care was taken in the creation of this map, but it is provided “AS IS”. Please contact the City of Berkeley to verify map information or to report any errors.
November 15, 2017