

**ORDINANCE NO. BL2018-1190**

**An ordinance amending Chapter 12.44 of the Metropolitan Code to provide free parking at public parking meters in Davidson County for environmentally friendly vehicles and for vehicle owners that purchase carbon offsets.**

WHEREAS, the June 2009 report from the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability recommended that the Metropolitan Government issue window stickers providing free meter parking for clean technology vehicles, including those powered by electricity, electric hybrid, and biofuel; and

WHEREAS, other major U.S. cities have adopted similar programs to encourage the purchase and use of environmentally friendly vehicles, and these cities have found success with such programs; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2010, the Metropolitan Council implemented the Green Ribbon Committee's recommendation regarding free parking for clean technology vehicles through the adoption of Ordinance No. BL2010-734, establishing a pilot program to enable clean technology vehicles to park at certain parking meters within the boundaries of the Downtown Central Business Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2011, the Metropolitan Council adopted Ordinance No. BL2010-825, as substituted, further amending Chapter 12.44 of the Metropolitan Code to provide for free parking for vehicle owners that purchase carbon offsets; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance Nos. BL2010-734 and BL2010-825 both included a one year sunset provision, providing an opportunity to examine the effectiveness of the program and its impact on the operations of the Metropolitan Government; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2013, the Metropolitan Council adopted Resolution No. RS2013-743, indefinitely extending the free metered parking program for clean technology vehicles and for vehicle owners that purchase carbon offsets in furtherance of the Council's initial commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the pilot program initiated under Ordinance Nos. BL2010-734 and BL2010-825 was limited to parking meters within the boundaries of the Downtown Central Business Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, in the interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County, the benefits of free metered parking for clean technology vehicles and for vehicle owners that purchase carbon offsets, in furtherance of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, should no longer be limited to the downtown area, but should be extended to Davidson County in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That Chapter 12.44 of the Metropolitan Code is hereby amended by deleting Section 12.44.075 in its entirety and substituting therefore the following:

**12.44.075 - Free metered parking for clean technology vehicles.**

- A. For purposes of this section, a "clean technology vehicle" refers to the following types of vehicle:
- 1) electric vehicle, defined as a vehicle which uses one or more electric motors for propulsion

- 2) hybrid vehicle, defined as a vehicle that utilizes more than one distinct form of onboard energy to achieve propulsion;
  - 3) flexible-fuel vehicle, defined as an alternative fuel vehicle with an internal combustion engine designed to operate using more than one fuel, such as gasoline blended with ethanol or methanol fuel, stored in a common tank.
- B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 12.44.040, no parking payment shall be required for a clean technology vehicle parked in a public parking metered space, for a duration not to exceed the posted time limit on the meter if the vehicle is displaying a valid sticker issued by the Davidson County Clerk designating the vehicle as a clean technology vehicle. The county clerk shall determine the proper place on the vehicle to which the sticker is to be affixed so as to maximize visibility for the benefit of the parking patrol officers.
  - C. The Davidson County Clerk shall have the authority and responsibility for issuing clean technology vehicle stickers for qualifying motor vehicles. The clean technology vehicle stickers shall only be available for private passenger vehicles. Each sticker shall be valid for a period of three years and shall be issued at the time the motor vehicle is registered. The county clerk shall be entitled to collect a fee of ten dollars from the applicant for each clean technology vehicle sticker issued. All fees collected for the clean technology vehicle stickers shall be deposited in the general fund of the general services district to assist in offsetting the administrative costs incurred by the county clerk for issuance of the stickers and enforcement of the ordinance by the department of public works.
  - D. Every motor vehicle owner seeking to obtain a clean technology vehicle sticker shall complete a form supplied by the county clerk designating the type of clean technology vehicle (*i.e.*, electric, hybrid, or flexible fuel vehicle), the vehicle's year, make, model, and whether the vehicle has a standard or automatic transmission.

Section 2. That Chapter 12.44 of the Metropolitan Code is hereby further amended by deleting Section 12.44.080 in its entirety and substituting therefore the following:

**12.44.080 - Free metered parking for vehicle owners that purchase carbon offsets.**

- A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 12.44.040, no parking payment shall be required for a clean technology vehicle parked in a public parking metered space, for a duration not to exceed the posted time limit on the meter if the vehicle is displaying a valid sticker issued by the Davidson County Clerk evidencing that the vehicle has purchased the required carbon offsets as provided in this section. The county clerk shall determine the proper place on the vehicle to which the sticker is to be affixed so as to maximize visibility for the benefit of the parking patrol officers.
- B. The carbon offset vehicle stickers shall only be available for private passenger vehicles. In order to obtain the free parking sticker, the private passenger motor vehicle owner shall purchase carbon offsets from a qualified non-profit organization that uses the carbon offset funds for carbon counterbalance projects within the area of the metropolitan government. Such carbon offsets shall be purchased for the calendar year in which the free parking sticker is to be issued. For the purposes of this section, a "qualified non-profit organization" means an organization that has obtained its tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service and provides an acceptable protocol that will lead to the registration of its project with Gold Standard, the Verified Carbon Standard, the Climate Action Reserve, or another comparable third-party carbon offset registry or verification method approved by the department of public works. All offsets sold by a qualified nonprofit organization for use under this section must be registered with Gold Standard, the Verified Carbon Standard, or another comparable third-party carbon offset registry or verification method approved by the department of public works.
- C. The Davidson County Clerk shall have the authority and responsibility for issuing carbon offset vehicle stickers for qualifying motor vehicles. Each sticker shall be valid for a period of three years

and shall be issued at the time the motor vehicle is registered. The private passenger motor vehicle owner shall present to the county clerk a certificate from the qualified non-profit organization evidencing that the dollar amount of the carbon credits purchased coincides with the carbon footprint of the motor vehicle for which the parking permit is sought, and that the carbon credits will be used for a carbon offset project that will be registered with Gold Standard, the Verified Carbon Standard, the Climate Action Reserve, or another comparable third-party carbon offset registry or verification method approved by the department of public works.

- D. The county clerk shall be entitled to collect a fee of ten dollars from the applicant for each carbon offset vehicle sticker issued. All fees collected for the carbon offset vehicle stickers shall be deposited in the general fund of the general services district to assist in offsetting the administrative costs incurred by the county clerk for issuance of the stickers and enforcement of the ordinance by the department of public works.
- E. The department of public works shall have the authority to promulgate the necessary regulations consistent with this section to further its implementation.

Section 3. The Metropolitan Police Department and the Department of Public Works shall take the appropriate action necessary to educate parking patrol personnel regarding the provisions and enforcement of this Ordinance.

Section 4. The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Ordinance to the Director of Public Works and to the Chief of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its enactment, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

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Freddie O'Connell

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Burkley Allen  
Members of Council