



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Department of Public Works**  
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www.kirklandwa.gov

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager  
**From:** Kathy Brown, Public Works Director  
**Date:** September 3, 2015  
**Subject:** RESOLUTION REGARDING CAR CHARGING STATIONS

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approves a resolution that would allow any member of the general public, including downtown employees or business owners, to use car charging stations owned by the City of Kirkland. The resolution establishes the policy that electric vehicle charging stations are a specific and limited service provided by the City, such as loading zone, rather than a parking space.

**BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:**

The proposed Resolution would resolve a situation in which two City policies have inadvertently come into conflict:

- Policy G-11 of the Public Works Pre-Approved Plans provides for reserved parking for employees working in downtown Kirkland, and prohibits individuals holding downtown employee parking permits from parking outside of designated areas.
- Chapter V of the City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Plan includes Goal NE-5 to improve air quality and reduce Kirkland's greenhouse gas emissions. Fossil fuel automobile emissions are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases.

To help meet the air quality and emissions goals of the City by encouraging the use of electric vehicles, the City installed, owns, and operates electric vehicle charging stations at various locations in the City's downtown area for use by the general public. These stations were installed in late 2011 using grant funding designed to increase electric vehicle use. In total, there are currently five City-owned electric charging stations:

- Two stations are located in the Library Garage, outside the downtown employee permit area.
- Two stations are located in the Marina Park parking lot where downtown employee parking is prohibited.
- A single station is in front of City Hall and its primary purpose is to serve those using City Hall during business hours of 8am to 5pm.

Only electric vehicles are allowed to use these stalls and each of these charging stations happen to be located in parking lots where downtown employee parking is restricted in some way.

The policy conflict was brought to the City's attention by a downtown business owner who had recently purchased an electric car. While charging at one of the stations in the Marina Park lot the owner received a parking ticket since downtown employees are not allowed to park in the Marina Park parking lot. The owner met with both the Public Works Director and the City Manager and highlighted that the existing charging stations are not currently fully utilized, and

that City Hall is the only public charging option for a downtown employee. This is counter to the goal of encouraging electric vehicle use but is consistent with downtown parking policies.

In response, staff is recommending that the City change the way charging stations and stalls are viewed. The stalls would be deemed to be charging stations, not electric vehicle parking spaces. Therefore the spaces would only be available to electric vehicles that are actively charging. Each vehicle charges at different speeds, so to avoid complexity for parking enforcement officers, the Resolution defines actively charging as being connected to the charging station. This does create the possibility that a car will be connected and not drawing power. However, electric vehicle users state that there is an understood protocol that cars will vacate charging stations when they are fully charged to allow others access to these limited number of stations. In addition, use of the charging stations would be limited to the time restrictions in each of the parking lots where the charging stations are located regardless of whether the vehicle is fully charged. Once an electric vehicle is charged or has reached the time limit, it must move or be ticketed. Electric vehicles owned by downtown employees or owners would still be prohibited from parking in any restricted spaces where the charging stations are located.

The current resolution does not require that electric charging station users have to pay for parking while charging at a station if the rest of the lot is a paid lot. The staff did not include this for two reasons. First, charging would run somewhat counter to the purpose of the resolution, which is to consider these stalls as charging stations and encourage electric vehicle use. Second, currently there is no paid parking required at the garage, City Hall, or at the Marina Park parking lot during the day. However, it has been contemplated that the Marina Park lot might be converted to all day paid parking at some point in the future. There may also come a time when the City wishes to charge in the parking garage or add a fee for the use of the charging stations. Therefore the Council may wish to amend the Resolution to require payment for using charging stations if the City charges for other parking in the same lot. This amendment could also be made at any point in the future that the Council chooses to add paid parking to certain lots.

By approving the proposed resolution, the City-owned charging stations would become available to all members of the public, including downtown employees. The proposal would have a minimal effect on downtown parking availability, and would maximize the use of the City's charging stations.

RESOLUTION R-5148

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND DECLARING ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS AND STALLS TO BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHARGING ELECTRIC VEHICLES RATHER THAN FOR USE AS PARKING SPACES AND TO ALLOW ANY MEMBER OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, INCLUDING DOWNTOWN EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESS OWNERS, TO CHARGE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AT CHARGING STATIONS OWNED BY THE CITY OF KIRKLAND.

1           WHEREAS, the City Council has, in Policy G-11 of the Public  
2 Works Pre-Approved Plans, identified parking reserved for employees  
3 working in downtown Kirkland; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, Chapter V of the City of Kirkland's Comprehensive  
6 Plan includes Goal NE-5 to improve air quality and reduce Kirkland's  
7 contribution to greenhouse gas emissions; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, to further the City's goal of improving air quality and  
10 reducing emissions by encouraging the use of electric vehicles, the City  
11 installed, owns, and operates electric vehicle charging stations at  
12 various locations in the City's downtown area for use by the general  
13 public; and  
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15           WHEREAS, most of the current inventory of City-owned charging  
16 stations are located in areas where downtown employee parking is  
17 prohibited under Policy G-11; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, only electric vehicles may use the stalls with charging  
20 stations and the City-owned charging stations are currently  
21 underutilized; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the City Council desires to increase charging station  
24 utilization and resolve this policy conflict by determining that electric  
25 vehicle charging stations and stalls are for the purpose of charging  
26 electric vehicles, and are not public parking spaces.  
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28           NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City  
29 of Kirkland as follows:  
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31           Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to designate  
32 city-owned parking stalls with electric vehicle charging stations as Public  
33 Vehicle Charging Stations rather than parking spaces.  
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35           Section 2. All members of the public, including downtown employees  
36 and business owners, may use these charging stations while the  
37 vehicles are connected to the station and actively charging, subject to  
38 the parking time limit placed on all other stalls at the parking lots or  
39 facilities that contain the charging stations.  
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41           Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open  
42 meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

43  
44

Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk