



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Public Works
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Tami White, Parking Coordinator

Date: September 25, 2008

Subject: RESPONSE TO MR. MICHAEL BONEWITS REGARDING DOWNTOWN MOTORCYCLE PARKING

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of response to Mr. Bonewits, who wrote the City about his reward incentive plan regarding the parking for motorcycles/scooters.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

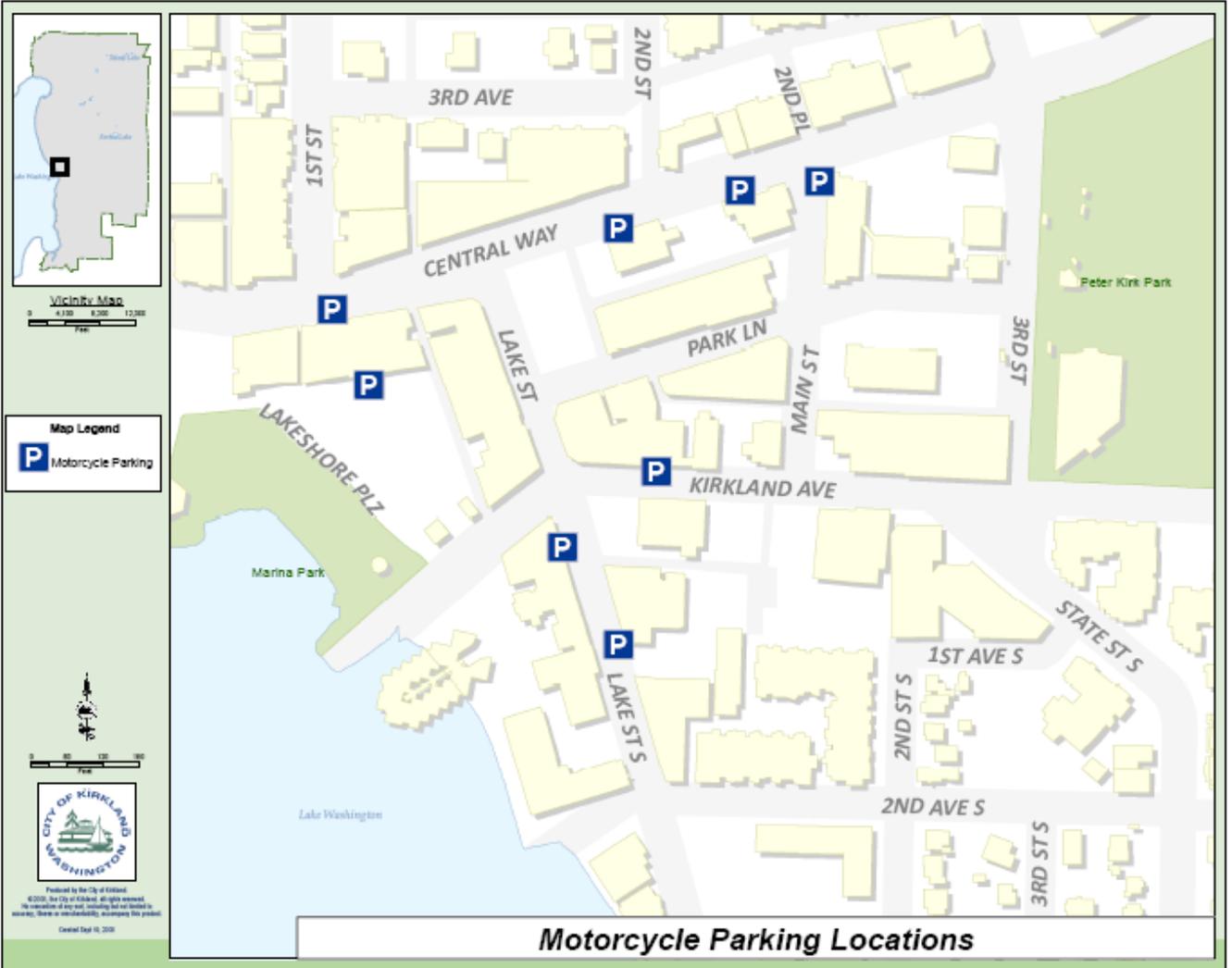
Mr. Bonewits presents, by email, to the Mayor and City Council an idea in his words "for a common sense Incentive Plan to be implemented to find cost effective solutions to this overdue issue." He proposes a section in the downtown core be dedicated for motorcycles and scooters, even smart electric cars. He contends that the location of this should be in "prime" area(s), suggesting one to be in front of Hallmark Realty. Mr. Bonewits states this area will provide an incentive and reward for people to use fuel efficient spaces to reduce their effort and reward their sacrifice. He also mentions cities in Europe find it to work well.

In addition, Mr. Bonewits makes reference to parking enforcement citing people who park more than one bike (motorcycle) in a stall.

Finally, he is asking for consideration to be given to his idea and is awaiting a response.

The Parking Advisory Board discussed his proposal on September 4th, and staff did try to contact him prior to invite him to attend; unfortunately, Mr. Bonewits was not available. At their meeting, the PAB decided the current motorcycle/scooter locations are sufficient to accommodate the needs; however they will give future consideration of other potential locations to possibly implement such a proposal.

Below is a map of the current motorcycle locations.



Vicinity Map
 0 4,000 8,000 12,000
 Feet

Map Legend
P Motorcycle Parking



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 Created: April 16, 2008

From: Mike Bonewits <mikethebuilder@comcast.net>

Date: August 21, 2008 9:32:18 PM PDT

To: jlauinger@ci.kirkland.wa.us, thodgson@ci.kirkland.wa.us, jgreenway@ci.kirkland.wa.us, dasher@ci.kirkland.wa.us, mburleigh@ci.kirkland.wa.us, jmcbride@ci.kirkland.wa.us, bsternoff@ci.kirkland.wa.us, Rrjammer@ci.kirkland.wa.us

Cc: dad Bonewits <richb2@msn.com>, Todd Ormsby Ormsby <toddormsby@comcast.net>, Wyomia Bonewits <wyomia@comcast.net>

Subject: Motorcycle and Parking issues "The Reward Incentive Plan"

Honorable Jim Lauinger, and City Council Members

I am a 25+ year resident in Kirkland and every summer I realize we have a significant parking problem. I know there has been effort by The City to curb the traffic problems and parking issues at great expense to us. In my opinion, these issues will worsen over time.

For clarification, the term motorcycle or cyclist should include scooters and other similar types of efficient reduced size vehicles such as Smart cars, electric cars and bicycles.

The main reason I am contacting you is that I have a request and Plan for The City to provide more motorcycle/scooter parking spaces to promote and accommodate the increased use of these vehicles. I have coined it "The Reward Incentive Plan".

I have spoken to many people, strangers and friends, (including myself) who have purchased motorcycles and scooters and an electric car to offset the high fuel costs and also aid in the navigation of and parking in Kirkland in the summer. Now more than ever, it is a sign of the times.

The big complaint is there is not ample parking in the core area. The spaces spread around town are 2 spaces in front of Hallmark Real Estate, a couple on 85th/Central Way, a few in the lot next to US bank, and a few on Kirkland Ave., for a total of approximately 10-15 spaces. While these spaces are greatly appreciated, on warm or sunny days these spaces often fill quickly. This forces the cyclist to take a entire car space for a single bike if one can be found. The parking enforcement officer says we can't double park bikes in a full size space without receiving a ticket. This makes no sense to me. You can easily put 3 or 4 bikes in a single parallel spot with no adverse affect. The only people who hate this is the ones in cars who see this and realize the cyclists have found a spot and they haven't. Ha!

It's time for a common sense "Incentive Plan" to be implemented to find cost effective solutions to this overdue issue.

My suggestions are:

1. Provide a section of no cost spaces that are dedicated for scooters, motorcycles (and maybe smart or electric cars) centrally located in the core.
2. Designate these spaces in the "prime location" of town. Proposed Location: Kirkland Ave in front of Hallmark Real Estate or The Shop. Give them "the front row."
3. These dedicated areas will provide an incentive and reward for people to use these fuel

efficient space saving smaller vehicles. It reduces their effort and thus rewards their sacrifice.

4. After the implementation of the first "incentive plan" evaluate the plan and expand on it if its working and necessary.

5. Keep it simple. The more accommodating or convenient these locations are, the more people will start to see and want to use them.

Instead of trying to penalize the cyclist, provide incentives for them and their use will increase.

Each cycle used does many things: It at least reduces the demand for the full car spaces which we don't have enough. It reduces congestion. It will promote people to come to the downtown core to buy food or shop, thus promoting business, if they don't have to circle around for 10-15 minutes to try to park a car where they might not want to hassle with it and just stay home.

Most cities in Europe have been providing accommodations for scooters and bicycles for decades, out of necessity and solid municipal planning. Its a way of life for people and is the best solution because it provides a need at a low or no additional cost. Best of all, it won't cost hundreds of thousands of dollars like most of the other less than brilliant ideas that have failed to effectively address or resolve this issue.

One of the most bustling cities I have been to is in Maastricht, Holland, where people use mostly bicycles in the core of the town. No cars. Business was booming! Kirkland has the chance to be a role model and leader to make a positive change to improve on our parking and congestion issues.

This is a general outline to get the ball rolling and gears turning. I have more ideas regarding this topic and am willing to discuss them with whomever wants too. Feel free to contact me by email or phone. I appreciate your time and hope this gives you some inspiration to think of the possibilities that can happen with some thought and unity.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Michael Bonewits

425 577 1300

mikethebuilder@comcast.net

October 7, 2008

DRAFT

Mr., Bonewits
P.O. Box 2334
Kirkland, WA 98083

Dear. Mr. Bonewits,

Thank you for taking the time to write the Kirkland City Council to share your "Reward Incentive Plan" that proposes ways to increase parking for motorcycles and scooters. As you may be aware, the City's Parking Advisory Board (PAB) is an advisory board to the City Council on parking matters. One of the primary missions of the Board is to evaluate parking demand and supply. Your Reward Incentive Plan idea was presented to the PAB at its September 4th meeting, and although you present some creative ideas, it was the consensus of the Board that its scope is too encompassing to achieve the results you seek.

It was important to the PAB that we share with you the Board's efforts to provide motorcycle/scooter stalls. The Board believes that these dispersed locations gave people a wider area to choose from rather than one central area, and they feel the current locations are more than sufficient to accommodate the needs. The locations below provide for how many:

- Central Way between Lake Street & 3rd Street – south side
- Lakeshore Plaza (in the Marina lot) – center north side
- Central Way & 1st Street – south side
- Lake Street between Kirkland Avenue & 2nd Avenue S.– east side
- Lake Street & Kirkland Avenue (in front of Hallmark, your suggestion) – west side
- Kirkland Avenue & Lake Street across from Bank of America– north side
- Main Street & Central Way – east side of Main Street

Your email mentions that the City issues citations for double parking of motorcycles within a single stall. According to our Parking Enforcement Division, no citations are issued in this situation provided the vehicles fit within the one stall.

Kirkland is committed to continually addressing parking needs while encouraging alternative means of transportation. As your letter points out, motorcycles and scooters do consume less fuel. We appreciate your creative and new ideas; however, unfortunately we cannot act on your proposal at this time. Perhaps at a future date, the PAB and staff will research other location(s) as recommended in your letter. The PAB meets the first Thursday of each month and the public is welcome to attend. Thank you for taking the time to write us, if you have any further comments, please contact Tami White, Parking Coordinator, at 425-587-3871 or twhite@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

James L. Lauinger, Mayor

cc: Parking Advisory Board
Tami White, Parking Coordinator