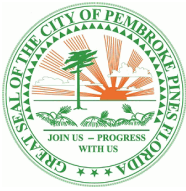


**ADD-1 COMMISSION ITEM ADDED TO PUBLISHED AGENDA ON
10/2/2019 TO BE PROVIDED ON THE DAIS.**



City of Pembroke Pines, FL

601 City Center Way
Pembroke Pines, FL
33025
www.ppines.com

Agenda Request Form

Agenda Number: ADD-1

File ID: 19-1219

Type: Commission Items

Status: Commission Items

Version: 1

**Agenda
Section:**

In Control: City Commission

File Created: 10/02/2019

Short Title: Commissioner Good-Item No.1: Veterans' Designated
Parking

Final Action:

Title: COMMISSIONER GOOD - ITEM NO.1: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE
MOTION (1) TO AUTHORIZE AND TO DIRECT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION
TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO PERMIT DESIGNATED PARKING FOR
VETERANS ON CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY, AND (2) TO FURTHER
DIRECT THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO PREPARE THE
NECESSARY LEGAL DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAM
OF DESIGNATED PARKING IN THE CITY, IN ADVANCE OF VETERAN'S
DAY, 2019.

***Agenda Date:** 10/02/2019

Agenda Number: ADD-1

Internal Notes:

Attachments: 1. Ticketed for Parking-News Herald Article, 2. Veterans Only Parking-Sun Sentinel Article, 3.
Parking for Veterans-Miami Dade Media Advisory

Indexes:

News-Herald

Can you be ticketed for parking in an expectant mother or veteran-only spot if you're not one?

- By Alex Franzen For The News-Herald
- Apr 16, 2018





Signs, signs, everywhere a sign. What about the signs that designate parking spots for expectant mothers, senior citizens and veterans? Will you get slapped with a ticket or towed if you park there and haven't served our country or don't have a real baby bump?

The answer is no, according to Taylor Police Chief John Blair. Taylor has several parking spaces designated for expectant mothers and veterans near municipal buildings, but they're there for courtesy.

“There’s no provision in the law that would make those signs enforceable,” he said. “It’s a courtesy in deference to mothers and a sign of respect for our veterans. We would surely hope people would honor that, using basic respect for people.”

These spaces are not like designated parking for a person with a disability, which are enforceable as people who can use those legally have a registered license disability plate or a parking placard from the Secretary of State.

Blair said the Taylor Police Department has received calls from people who see somebody park in a disability parking space without the license plate placard; however, they haven’t received calls for the expectant mother and veteran-only parking spaces.

In addition to not being enforceable locally, Michigan State Police Lt. Mike Shaw said there are no state laws either regarding expectant mother and veteran-only parking spaces.

But, everyone agrees: Do the right thing and park where you’re supposed to.

[You Ask, We Answer](#) is a new News-Herald feature. Have a Downriver-related question you’ve always wondered about? Email it to editor@thenewsherald.com and we’ll work on finding the answer.

‘Veterans Only’ parking spaces popping up in South Florida

By **Johnny Diaz**

South Florida Sun Sentinel |

Jul 19, 2019 | 12:09 PM

On July 15, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office designated a parking space for veterans outside its offices. The city of West Miami this week also approved a program to designate "Veterans Only" spaces at city-run parks and facilities. (Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office / Courtesy)

A South Florida city founded by World War II veterans wants to make it easier for fellow veterans to park.

The West Miami city commission passed an initiative Wednesday to designate “veterans only” parking spaces in the city, which is nestled between the Tamiami Trail and Coral Way.

Advertisement

The reserved spaces will be available at city-run parks and facilities. At the commission meeting, commissioner Eric Diaz-Padron, who presented the initiative, held up a sign to show how the spots will be designated. The spaces will say “Veterans Only Parking” with seals of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

“These spaces will not only be a showing of appreciation to our veterans, but also a functional benefit for those who fought in defense of our freedom,” said Diaz-Padron. He said the city is looking at which spaces would get the special designation.

“I have requested that they be installed before Veterans Day, at least one will be unveiled on that day,” he said. Veterans Day falls on Nov. 11.

How will his city’s new designated parking program be enforced? The honor system.

"I have faith that people will respect our Veterans enough to not park in the space," said Diaz-Padron.

He noted that the parking program follows a 2016 resolution by Miami-Dade County vice chairwoman Rebeca Sosa that designated veteran spaces near elevators and entrances at county surface parking lots and garages managed by the county.

That program is aimed at serving the more than 60,000 veterans who live in Miami-Dade, according to U.S. Census figures. In 2017, the first space to get that special title was at the pool parking lot of A.D. Barnes Park off Bird Road in Miami. Broward county does not have designated parking spaces for vets, according to the county.

"While we remain forever indebted to our veterans, we must do all that we can to express our deep appreciation and admiration," Diaz-Padron added.

Veterans-only spaces have been popping up around South Florida. Earlier this year, Florida International University, based in Miami-Dade, added a space for veterans at the Veterans and Military affairs parking lot, according to FIU. The space is for veterans and active, reserve and National Guard soldiers at the main campus, according to [Panther.com](#). More spaces with signs that are marked in blue or gold and read "VETERAN PARKING," are expected on campus.

On July 15, the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office also set up a parking space for veterans in front of the sheriff's office. The sign at the space reads "Thank you for your service."

The sheriff's office said it wants to support veterans who come to the office for business. The Villages, an adult community in central Florida, also has such designated spaces for its residents. And last Veterans Day, Lowe's, the home improvement chain, began rolling out parking spaces for veterans as a way to say thank you for their service.

Johnny Diaz

South Florida Sun Sentinel
Contact

Johnny Diaz is a features and viral news writer at the Sun Sentinel. Prior to that, he was a media reporter for The Boston Globe's Business section. Johnny is the author of six novels: Boston Boys Club, Miami Manhunt, Beantown Cubans, Take the Lead and Looking for Providence. His latest novel, Six Neckties, was published in May 2017.



For Immediate Release:
July 11, 2017

Media Contact:
Manuel Orbis Jr

786-804-0925

MEDIA ADVISORY: Unveiling of designated parking for veterans

Miami-Dade County, Florida - Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, joined by the Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board and the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, will unveil the first designated parking space for military veterans at a Miami-Dade County facility. The unveiling will take place Friday, July 14, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. at the pool parking lot of A.D. Barnes Park.

In 2016, Commissioner Sosa sponsored legislation creating the designated parking program for veterans. Through the implementation of the program, veterans will be recognized by reserved parking on surface lots or garages owned and managed by Miami-Dade County. Signs will be posted designating a spot as Veterans Only Parking for use by a U.S. veteran or active duty personnel. As part of the program, veterans parking signs will be installed in areas in close proximity to elevators and entrances of Miami-Dade County owned and managed facilities. The program will serve the more than 60,000 veterans who reside in Miami-Dade County according to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Miami-Dade County is blessed with a wonderful veteran community that continues to contribute in very positive ways," said Commissioner Sosa. "It is my hope that these parking spots will not only prove useful to our veterans, but that they will also serve as a testament of our appreciation and commitment to honor and support them in any way we can."

All media is welcomed to attend Friday's unveiling event.

Who:

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa
Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board
Miami-Dade County Park, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department

What:

Unveiling of designated parking for veterans

When:

July 14, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

Where:

A.D. Barnes Park - Pool Parking Lot
3401 SW 72nd Ave, Miami, FL 33155
Directional signs will guide guests to the event location.

#

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