



Date: October 22, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Street Sweeping Program Update**

To provide relief to individuals impacted by the Safer-at-Home Public Health Order, the City suspended issuing street sweeping citations from March 17, 2020 through May 15, 2020. Residents were advised to continue to move their vehicles during posted sweeping hours, but they would not be cited if they failed to do so. During this time, residents were also offered the opportunity to receive free parking permits so they may park at various City lots. This provided additional parking options for residents to help remove vehicles from roadways for street sweepers to be more effective.

On April 21, 2020, the City Council directed staff to inform residents the City would begin issuing street sweeping tickets again on May 18, 2020; however, citations could be dismissed if individuals were experiencing hardship due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The time period for these dismissals is set to expire on October 31st. Through October 12th, the City has received approximately 7,500 requests to dismiss street sweeping citations due to a COVID 19 hardship.

As you are aware, street sweeping is a critical public health and safety function. Keeping our gutters clean through weekly sweeping is one of the City's most important tools in complying with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. It serves as a source control mechanism by removing litter and waste that would otherwise make its way into the storm drain system and eventually to the ocean. Street sweeping not only removes debris like litter, but also sediment that carry heavy metals and bacteria into waterways. Dismissal of street sweeping citations through this program has contributed to increased complaints regarding the quality of our sweeping service. Staff is unable to provide a quality sweep when vehicles are not moved. This can allow debris to accumulate along gutters.

Despite the service challenges this program creates, staff recommends extending street sweeping citation forgiveness through November 30th to continue to assist residents in need during the pandemic. In addition to approving COVID-related dismissals for street sweeping citations, the Department of Public Works continues to support the free parking permit program.

If you have any questions, please contact Diko Melkonian, Environmental Services Bureau Manager/Deputy Director of Public Works, at (562) 570-2856.

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
REBECCA GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS