Joint Labor-Management Committee Commute Options & Parking COMMITTEE REPORT 22-18

Date: August 11, 2022

To: JLMC-COP

From: Staff

Subject: Fee Holiday Consideration

JLMC-COP Members

Management

Valerie Melloff, GSD, Chair

Paula Dayes, Personnel, First Provisional Chair Patricia Huber, CAO Jay Kim, LADOT

Employee Organization Primary Members

Charles Leone, SEIU, Vice-Chair Carmen Hayes-Walker, AFSCME Second Provisional Chair

Victor Gordo, LIUNA Billy Brockway, LAPCOA

<u>Employee Organization Secondary Members</u> Charley M. Mims, LAPMA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the JLMC-COP (1) dissolve the Ad Hoc Interim Parking Policy Subcommittee; (2) dissolve the Ad Hoc Interim Commuter Support Subcommittee; and (3) refer consideration of an additional parking fee holiday to the Ad Hoc Special MOU Review Subcommittee.

DISCUSSION:

Beginning in 2020, the Department of General Services (GSD) issued a memo notifying the City workforce that employees may park at certain City-managed garages without holding a parking permit and free of charge. Said parking was issued on a first-come, first-served basis to the extent capacity is available. This policy continues to be in effect as of the date of this report. At its meeting on July 14, 2022, JLMC-COP Committee Chair Valerie Melloff had noted that some employee organizations had contacted GSD expressing concerns that some employees continued to pay for parking permits while other employees were able to park for free without a permit. Ms. Melloff requested that the JLMC-COP consider whether an additional fee holiday would be feasible.

At its meeting on September 1, 2020, the JLMC-COP established an Ad Hoc Interim Parking Policy Subcommittee (Interim Parking Subcommittee) to review options and develop recommendations for interim parking policies and practices in response to COVID-19. On November 20, 2020, the JLMC-COP adopted the Interim Parking Subcommittee's recommendation to implement a temporary fee holiday that waived all parking payroll deductions for six consecutive pay periods, from the pay period ending June 19, 2021 to pay

period ending September 11, 2021. The fee holiday was intended to provide temporary relief to employees who continued to pay for their City-issued parking permits despite working remotely while non-permitted employees could avail themselves of the opportunity to utilize the temporary first-come, first-served free parking policy. The cost to waive six periods of payroll deductions was approximately \$564,000, or \$94,000 per pay period.

The Ridesharing Trust Fund (RST Fund) was able to absorb the full cost of the fee holiday in calendar year 2020 because there was a simultaneous decrease in expenditures from the RST Fund. Revenues collected through payroll for parking permits are deposited into the RST Fund for the exclusive use of paying transit subsidies and reimbursements. A steep drop-off in utilization of the COMMUTEwell Program's transit subsidy reimbursement program was temporarily experienced due to many employees working remotely and therefore not receiving a transit subsidy. Since the calendar year 2020 fee holiday ended, transit subsidy utilization resumed and slowly began to increase as employees began returning to onsite work. As an additional incentive, the JLMC-COP also approved a one-year increase in the subsidy amount from \$50 to \$100.

The Ad Hoc Interim Parking Policy Subcommittee was not dissolved by the JLMC-COP so it continues to exist and is comprised of three members: Paula Dayes, Carmen Hayes-Walker, and Valerie Melloff. In addition to the Ad Hoc Interim Parking Policy Subcommittee, at its June 10, 2021 meeting, the JLMC-COP established an Ad Hoc Interim Commuter Support Subcommittee (Commute Support Subcommittee) to work with staff to propose interim changes to COMMUTEwell transportation benefits which would assist the City's workforce in transitioning to a greater presence at City worksites. On September 15, 2021, the JLMC-COP adopted several of the Commute Support Subcommittee's recommendations including a change to the Special MOU that allowed the COMMUTEwell Program to administer an increase of the transit subsidy from \$50 to \$100 for a one-year period. The Commute Support Subcommittee was not dissolved by the JLMC-COP so it continues to exist and is comprised of four members: Carmen Hayes-Walker, Jay Kim, Charles Leone, and Valerie Melloff.

At its meeting on April 14, 2022, the JLMC-COP established a third ad hoc subcommittee, an Ad Hoc Special MOU Review Subcommittee (Special MOU Review Subcommittee) to work with staff in bringing recommended benefit design and Special MOU policy positions. This Special MOU Review Subcommittee is comprised of Paula Dayes, Lisa Gabriel, Charles Leone, and Charley Mims. Staff is preparing considerations for the Special MOU Review Subcommittee that span each article of the MOU, including provisions that will impact the RST Fund. This Special MOU Review Subcommittee's work will include a financial analysis of the Ridesharing Trust Fund and will consider the impact various policy changes may have on the health of the fund. This Special MOU Review Subcommittee will broadly consider changes to the Special MOU that are responsive to the evolving transit needs of the City's workforce. Additionally, this subcommittee was granted the ability to recommend interim measures to the JLMC-COP while working on revising the Special Parking MOU. Given the broad mandate of the Special MOU Review Subcommittee and the impact its recommendations may have on the Ridesharing Trust Fund,

staff believes this would be the appropriate body to consider an additional parking fee holiday. To that end, staff also believes that it is appropriate to dissolve the previous two ad hoc committees (Interim Parking Subcommittee and Commute Support Subcommittee) which have served their intended purpose.

Staff recommends that the JLMC-COP: (1) dissolve the Ad Hoc Interim Parking Policy Subcommittee; (2) dissolve the Ad Hoc Interim Commuter Support Subcommittee; and (3) refer consideration of an additional parking fee holiday to the Ad Hoc Special MOU Review Subcommittee.

Submitted by:

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Approved by:

Paul Makowski, Chief Management Analyst