



January 24, 2012

Ald. Robert J. Bauman
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Proposal would boost Number of “Free” Parking days in city

A proposed ordinance would expand the list of “free” city parking days to include any day designated as a paid holiday day-off for city employees, according to the measure’s sponsor, **Alderman Robert J. Bauman**.

Current city code suspends parking time limits – allowing free street parking – for seven calendar days, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, Labor Day and Memorial Day, and July 4.

The ordinance (file # 111321) proposes adding a minimum of four days to the list of days exempt from parking time limits - Good Friday, the day following Thanksgiving, the last weekday before Christmas and the last weekday before New Year’s Day. In addition, the suspension of parking time limits would be extended to additional days whenever New Year’s Day, Independence Day or Christmas Day fall on a weekend, said Alderman Bauman, chair of the Common Council’s Public Works Committee.

Alderman Bauman said city employee holidays usually mean that most non-essential city services are suspended. “If we can suspend city services we can lift usual weekday daytime parking restrictions and requirements,” he said. “If we can make reasonable changes to our code to engender some goodwill and ease up on parking restrictions so residents and city employees can enjoy their holiday time off, I think we should pursue those changes.”

If the ordinance is approved, the city will save parking enforcement staff costs, but will forego any potential parking meter or parking citation revenues for the four days the ordinance adds to the list of “free” parking time.

The measure will be heard by the **Public Safety Committee** at 9 a.m. on Thursday (January 26) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.