

Payne, Tiesha

From: Richard MacKinnon <mackinnon.rich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 8:17 AM
To: Payne, Tiesha
Subject: Fwd: Inadequate Parking Signage On Neches Between 6th & 7th
Attachments: picture007.jpg; picture008.jpg

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Brynn Biddle" <brynn.biddle@live.com>
Date: Dec 30, 2012 6:42 PM
Subject: Inadequate Parking Signage On Neches Between 6th & 7th
To: <mackinnon.rich@gmail.com>, <boonejblocker@austin.rr.com>

Mr. MacKinnon and Mr. Blocker:

I am writing to you today to let you know about inadequate parking signage on Neches St. between 6th and 7th streets. Between the hours of 9:00p & 4:00a the area becomes a tow zone for all vehicles excluding the Austin Police Departments'. The problem is that there are only two signs on opposite ends of the parking area announcing this and there is no signage on the parking meter itself; in fact, the parking meter allows drivers to pay for parking during the no-parking hours.

My car was towed from the described area yesterday because the signage was not visible to myself or the other two people in my car. I paid for three hours of parking and went back to my car to add time to find that it had been towed. The police officer on duty said he arrives at the area at 8:30p during each of his scheduled shifts to warn drivers not to park in the area because he agrees that the signage is insufficient and community members like myself often are unfairly towed because they are completely unaware that the area is a no parking zone during designated times.

I was curious to see how often cars are towed from this area so when I went to South Side towing to pay my \$176 to have my car removed from the impound I asked the receptionist how many cars are brought in from the parking spots on Neches between 6th and 7th. She informed me that on average they see 2-6 cars each night from that area. I also asked if the city receives a portion of the fee that citizens pay to have their cars removed from impound and she said it was about 30% per car.

One must question, if the police department and the towing company are both aware that there is insufficient signage why has the problem not been addressed? It seems as if this issue is not being addressed since it is an easy source of income for the city; not only do law-abiding citizens like myself pay to park, we also pay to retrieve our cars after they have been unfairly towed. I have attached pictures to show the inadequacy of the signage currently in place. One shows that there are only two signs on the far ends of the parking area and the other shows that unless one parks in the end spaces there is no way of seeing the signs that warn drivers of the designated tow hours.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue,
Brynn Biddle