

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative: An Ordinance to Amend the Town Code to Increase the Handicapped Parking Space Civil Penalty

Department: Economic Development

What are the racial and equity impacts? Communities of color and those with disabilities may face higher rates of poverty and economic insecurity, potentially increasing the likelihood of encountering financial burdens should they park illegally in a handicap parking space or without the appropriate identification.

Who is or will experience community burden? Primarily, those without a disability and illegally park in a handicap space will be burdened with the increased penalty of the ticket. Individuals with disabilities may experience a burden from the increased penalty. If they or their caregivers inadvertently park in a handicap space without proper authorization or permit, the higher penalty could worsen their financial situation or, should this occur, they would have to travel further to their destination. Additionally, a burden exists to those who have a disability and yet are unable to utilize a handicap parking space due to someone without a disability occupying that space.

Who is or will experience community benefit? The primary community benefit of this ordinance change is the potential improvement in accessibility and enforcement of handicap parking spaces. An increase to the penalty may help deter illegal parking and ensure that designated spaces are available for those who genuinely need them, thereby enhancing accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

What are the root causes of inequity? Root causes of inequity may include insufficient access to affordable and accessible parking, inadequate education or awareness about handicap parking regulations, and systemic barriers that hinder equitable access to resources and services for individuals with disabilities, particularly those from marginalized communities.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy? One potential unintended consequence of this action could be the exacerbation of financial hardship for low-income individuals or families without a disability who inadvertently violate handicap parking regulations.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? Since this is increasing a civil penalty of an already illegal activity, department staff do not anticipate any additional significant burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences that would need to additional mitigation measures.