

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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JAN 10 1982

JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

January 8, 1982

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Loop - Tow Away Zones on J and L Streets

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
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SUMMARY

This report concerns:

1. A previously approved towing ordinance relative to emergency response lanes on J and L Streets;
2. Performance information based upon signing and policies established as a result of this authorization; and
3. Factual and statistical information showing that all meters are posted and 10-12 vehicles are now towed per enforcement day. Regarding: Item #23-3, Council Agenda of October 20, 1981.

BACKGROUND

This report deals with statistical and factual information relative to the newly created tow zones on J Street, 5th to 14th Streets, north side, and on L Street, 15th to 3rd Streets, south side. These tow zones are applicable on Friday and Saturday nights only, during the hours from 2100 (9:00 p.m.) to 0200 (2:00 a.m.). During all other hours, normal meter zone regulations apply.

There are 172 metered spaces in the concerned area, or approximately 50 percent of the total curb parking normally available in the twenty-one city blocks which make up the "loop".

Sacramento City Codes pertaining are:

Sec. 25.103 S.C.C. - Enforcement Authority.

Sec. 25.103 On street stopping, standing or parking prohibited during certain hours.

When authorized signs are in place giving notice thereof, no

person shall stop, stand or park on the days indicated on such signs, between the hours specified on such signs, upon any of the streets described in resolutions duly adopted by the city council. (Ord. No. 3917, S1).

Sec. 25.107(b) S.C.C. - Removal or Tow Authority

Sec. 25.107 Removal of vehicles from street - when permitted.

Any regularly employed and salaried officer of the police department of the city may remove or cause to be removed:

(a) Any vehicle that has been parked or left standing on a street or highway for seventy-two or more consecutive hours.

(b) Any vehicle which is parked or left standing upon a street or highway when such parking or standing is prohibited by resolution of this city and signs are posted giving notice of such removal.

(c) Any vehicle which is parked or left standing upon a street or highway where the use of such street or highway or a portion thereof is necessary for the cleaning, repair or construction of the street or highway or for the installation of underground utilities or the trimming or spraying of street trees or any other public service or safety use or where the use of the street or highway or any portion thereof is necessary for the movement of equipment, articles or structures of unusual size and the parking of such vehicles would prohibit or interfere with such use or movement; provided, that signs giving notice that such vehicles may be removed are erected or placed at least twenty-four hours prior to their removal. (Ord. No. 3917, S1)

As authorized by Resolution Nos. 81-590 and 81-591, and voted upon and approved by members of the City Council on August 4, 1981.

The operational plan relative to this resolution was put into effect on October 2, 1981, with 42 advisory signs in place as per the Traffic Engineer. Prior to actual towing of vehicles, certain public information steps were taken to inform the citizens frequenting the area, such as:

1. Convention Center advised to make public announcements.
2. Masonic Lodge advised to make public announcements.
3. Convention Center Theater advised, along with posting a public notice.
4. All businesses that were open during the times of prohibited parking, such as bars, restaurants and retail outlets.
5. A police unit made passes throughout the area advising individuals.
6. In addition to the above, there was heavy media coverage for public information prior to implementation of tows.

Activity for the first two weeks of the operation showed that there were

83 vehicles towed pursuant to Section 25.107 S.C.C., 201 citations pursuant to Section 25.103 S.C.C., 17 hazardous moving violations and three(3) Driving Under the Influence arrests resulting from this assignment. This was an unacceptable level of compliance as the emergency response lanes were, in fact, not clear of vehicles until 0035 hours.

After experiencing a multitude of complaints from citizens who stated they did not, or could not, see the signs advising of the tow zone, the Police Department appealed for a plan which would sign each meter in the concerned area. As an interim measure, 44 temporary signs mounted on barricades were placed in the area on the two following weekends.

Numbers then compared were 58 tows as opposed to 83 tows, 98 citations as opposed to 201 citations, and 15 hazardous moving violations as opposed to 17 for the two weeks prior.

As an additional informative act, two Auxiliary units were assigned to attempt to contact owners of vehicles in the tow zones beginning at 1800 hours, as well as continuing the policy of notifying public places as done previously.

On October 23, 1981, additional permanent signing had been installed which totaled 96 signs. A comparison of the next two-week period showed a decrease in tows from 58 to 47, but citations rose from 98 to 104 in the same period.

The Police Department then appealed to have each meter signed, and this was completed on November 11, 1981. Again, tows dropped from 47 to 44, and citations decreased from 104 to 79.

In addition to citations and tows, the officers have kept an inventory of vehicles in the concerned area as a measure of compliance. This count is made each night at approximately 2245 hours (8:45 p.m.) and has decreased from a high of 109 vehicles on 11-6-81 to a low of 14 vehicles on 12-26-81.

At this time it appears that we have reached a plateau of stabilization, and since completion of signing, we are towing an average of 10.87 vehicles per night of enforcement, for an up-to-date total as of 1-2-82 of 382 vehicles towed, and 783 citations issued.

The attached information shows tows by date, location, and cumulative totals for each block.

FINANCIAL DATA

N/A

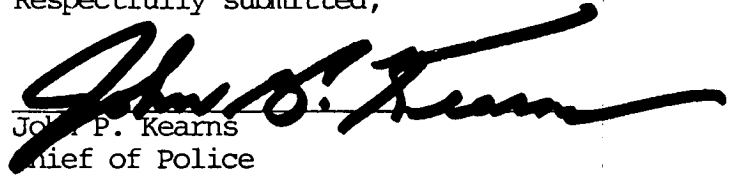
VOTE AND RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSION

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

It is our recommendation that the Resolutions remain in effect as written.

Respectfully submitted,


John P. Kearns
Chief of Police

Recommendation Approved:


Walter J. Slipes, City Manager

Attachments

Ref: 1-11

TOTAL ENFORCEMENT DAYS	28
TOTAL MAN/DAYS	176
TOTAL CITATIONS 25.103 SCC	783
TOTAL VEHICLES TOWED 25.107 SCC	382

