

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

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2009 DEC -8 P 2:29

December 8, 2009

Hon. Michael McSweeney
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
141 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Mr. McSweeney:

Pursuant to Section 37 of the New York City Charter, I hereby disapprove Introductory Number 907, which would prohibit the issuance of a notice of violation for parking in excess of the time allotted as indicated on a munimeter receipt or longer than the time period allowed by a sign posted by the Department of Transportation until five minutes after the actual violation.

While characterized as a "grace period" to benefit drivers who are rushing to their vehicles, this universal extension of time for drivers would have the practical effect of impeding traffic flow and disrupting street cleaning operations. It would thus have a negative impact on the quality of life for all City residents. Additionally, the bill could generate confusion for drivers and prove difficult to enforce.

When New Yorkers park at a meter or at a signed curbside space, they leave their vehicle knowing exactly how much time they have purchased or are otherwise permitted to park. The overwhelming majority of motorists in New York return to their vehicle in time without the help of a grace period. Providing an additional five minutes merely creates confusion and increases the likelihood of confrontation between motorists and enforcement personnel.

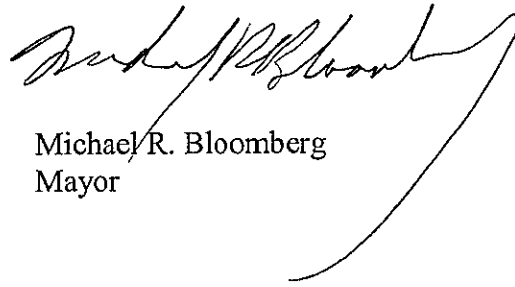
Furthermore, the stated intention of the Council is for the bill to apply to munimeter spaces and alternate-side-of-the-street parking. However, because of the manner in which the bill is drafted, the new law would seem to apply to every metered parking space and every violation dependent upon signage indicating a lawful time period.

At single space meters, enforcement would be difficult, potentially generating dangerous conflict between enforcement personnel and motorists, because the meter does not indicate what time it expires. An enforcement agent would not know whether the five-minute period had expired unless the enforcement agent happened to see the driver park or the meter expire, or waits for five minutes next to an expired meter to see if the driver arrives. Additionally, we anticipate that some drivers will continue to try to get their cars at the last minute – thus this bill will not resolve conflicts that sometimes occur between drivers and enforcement agents when a driver is a few minutes late, but will only push them back by five minutes.

Earlier this year I announced a comprehensive strategy to make parking easier, more efficient and more user-friendly through new technology and a series of new initiatives. These include reductions in alternate side of the street parking regulations, exploring technology that will allow New Yorkers to view a map of available parking spaces, receive alerts when their meter expires, and pay parking meters on their mobile device. In addition, all 2,795 of the City's traffic enforcement agents will take part in increased sensitivity training to ensure New Yorkers that are ticketed are dealt with in a professional and courteous manner.

Accordingly, I hereby disapprove Introductory Number 907.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Cc: Hon. Christine C. Quinn

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DISAPPROVED

ON THE 8th DAY OF December 2009
[Signature] MAYOR

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2009 DEC -8 P 2:29 Int. No. 907

By Council Members Felder, Vacca, Barron, Comrie, Fidler, Gentile, Jackson, James, Nelson, Sears, Weprin, Stewart, ~~Malone~~, Palma, Yassky, Gerson, Koppell, Gennaro, White Jr., Liu, and Eugene, Ulrich, Dickens, Vallone Jr. and Recchia Jr.

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing a grace period for certain parking violations.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter two of title 19 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 19-213 to read as follows:

§19-213. Grace period. a. For the purposes of this section, the term "munimeter receipt" shall mean the receipt showing the amount of parking time purchased that is dispensed by an electronic parking meter and must be displayed in a conspicuous place on a vehicle's dashboard.

b. No notice of violation shall be issued for allegedly parking in excess of the allotted time displayed on a munimeter receipt or longer than the time period allowed by a sign posted by the department until five minutes after the time that such a violation occurs.

§2. This local law shall take effect ninety days after it is enacted.

MEA
LS 6869
01.05.08

I hereby certify that the above bill was passed by the Council of the City of New York on November 16, 2009 receiving the following votes:

Affirmative..... 47
Negative..... 2
Not Voting..... 0

[Signature]
**Michael M. McSweeney, City Clerk,
Clerk of the Council.**

[Signature]