

PARKING COMMITTEE

November 25, 2015

The Honorable Otmar Enrique Oduber, MP
Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector and Culture
Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard 76
Oranjestad, Aruba

URGENT

Dear Minister Oduber:

Following the meeting of November 12th 2015 at the Renaissance Convention Center, request was made to setup a committee of interested downtown business owners to submit clear proposals to solve the current parking predicament. We hereby have the following URGENT requests and kindly request a response by latest December 3rd 2015:

- 1.) We would like your official confirmation that during the month of December, AruParking will be offering the community free parking on Saturdays and specific dates as proposed in said meeting at the Renaissance Convention Center.
 - a. **Free parking is requested for the 5th, 12th, 19th, 23rd and 31st of December.**
- 2.) We would like to see the official plan from OBID of activities for December. Currently the business community is in need of this to start their year-end marketing and labor planning.

Separately, the following proposals/changes in the parking law need your consideration to gain the support of the Downtown Business Community in the immediate short term:

- 1.) Reduction of parking meter rates in certain sections (areas frequented by locals) to 0.25 per quarter hour (15 minutes).
- 2.) Change in the parking meter times: 9:00am – 5:00pm
 - This allows small businesses focusing on breakfast to be able to function and will motivate businesses to stay open later to offer free parking to their clients which is consistent with the government's desire to make downtown active after hours.
- 3.) Offer FREE PARKING on the yellow spaces on SATURDAYS.
 - The government nor banks work during the weekend thus offering these spaces as free parking will boost traffic for the downtown businesses and will show an act of good faith by AruParking toward the local population.

Restructuring of the Penalty System / Fines:

Shopping is a leisure activity and having such a severe policy with the use clamps is counterproductive to that purpose. Immediately, a more reasonable approach should be implemented such as the one used in the United States.

- 1.) **Fines:** Allow for a fine of Afl.25, - for short term overtime parking. After three fines during the course of a year or non-payment after 90 days, a clamp is used and a higher fine imposed i.e. Afl.200, - fee + Afl.50, - fine
- 2.) **Clamps:** Should only be used regularly to control traffic violations as a last resort.

Thomas
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3.) **Payment of fines:** Payments should be easily made online with all banks, at ATM machines, at all Banks, and at AruParking offices.

a. **Payment Policies:**

- i. All fines are due within 90 days
 - 1. Paid Within 30 Days: Afl.25, -
 - 2. Paid AFTER 30 Days: Afl.45, -

b. **Late Policy:**

- i. Tickets paid after 90 days should be subject to an additional fine, late penalties, collection costs, and subject to clamping.
- ii. A report should be sent to Police for further handling.

Employee Parking (Yellow Parking Spaces):

The uneven distribution of the yellow parking spaces is causing problems in certain areas resulting in a deficiency of white spaces available for clients.

Not enough yellow parking spaces is also causing serious problems for the downtown labor market who are not able to attain yellow parking spaces in their areas due to limitations in capacity.

Immediate attention is hereby requested to solve this problem as private properties currently being used for parking are being sectioned off prohibiting such.


Our suggestion is to build parking garages, in the short term, as initially promised to the downtown business community.


We trust that you can understand the urgency of the situation and the pain felt by downtown businesses and hope we can count on your immediate attention and implementation of our suggestions.

This letter is submitted with reservation of all rights and remedies and without any limitation.

Sincerely,


John A. Chemaly


Atan Lee Jr.


Marielle Ho-Kang-You


Audrey Croes Lacle


Paul Gielen


Frans Kok


Muryla Wever

CC: Kamer Van Koophandel