

Lisa Clausen

From: Dick Loman
Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 9:43 AM
To: neurocon@comcast.net
Cc: Steve Gilbert; Lisa Clausen
Subject: Parking Fine

Dear Mr. Klettke,
Your letter of July 31st to the Burien City Council has been referred to me for reply.

It has been almost five years since our business community, acting through the Burien Economic Development Partnership (BEDP), an economic advisory committee to the Burien City Council, asked the City to rigorously enforce existing parking limits in our downtown commercial district in order to discourage use of our limited on street parking by downtown employees and overflow parkers from the Metro Park and Ride lot. The theory was that 2 Hours during the day was sufficient for dining and shopping needs. We checked this week with neighboring cities and found that SeaTac is also at \$50 and Seattle is at \$42, respectively for parking fines. Des Moines is at \$20, but feel that they should be at the \$50 -\$75 level to cover administration, police and court costs as well as to maintain an effective deterrent. One east side city with limited street parking fines up to \$125 for repeat parking violations. Our street signs omit the amount of specific fines because of the \$100 cost per sign associated with changing the information, when change is needed.

Receiving a parking ticket is never a pleasant experience, but I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely,
Richard F. Loman
Economic Development Manager
City of Burien
206-248-5528

...

CFTR: 08/16/10
CC: Economic Development

July 31, 2010

RECEIVED

AUG 03 2010

Burien City Council

CITY OF BURIEN

I live in West Seattle near Burien and frequently enjoy the Burien King County Library and spend time in the restaurants and shops especially along 152nd Street and some specialty shops nearby.

Yesterday, I met a Chinese immigrant at the library as a volunteer tutor to help her with her SSCC courses and parked across from the library on 152nd Street. She was a little late and I had spent more time helping her than planned, and when we parted I was hungry so walked to a restaurant about a block away. When I returned an officer was writing a parking ticket, rightfully so, since I had surpassed the 2-hour limit. Although he claimed to have marked my car 10 minutes before I had even arrived, and then gave a dumb answer when I told him so, he was right in that I had surpassed the limit and so I'm paying the fine.

I was quite shocked to find that the fine was so high, \$50. I would have appreciated such a high fine to be posted at the parking sites. If it was, I certainly would have paid closer attention to the time. From looking on internet blogs I see complaints about red-light camera violation fines of \$101 which I also think is rather excessive. An employee at one of the businesses below apparently was fined for not coming to a COMPLETE stop when turning right on a red light at a camera-controlled intersection.

At any rate, I have no control over the fine-setting and since I was in violation I have paid the fine. However, I do have control over where I go shopping, and as a form of protest, I will no longer be shopping in Burien for one year and will be forwarding this letter to businesses I have recently patronized. Although I will be particularly sad by this, since the Aussie pies are authentic, the Danish Bakery makes the best Kringle and Danish in the state (if not the country), Han's really IS German, and Burien Honda has noticeably better prices and services than Seattle, I really feel I don't have much choice in order to be serious about my individual protest.

Ken Klettke
West Seattle

cc:

Paul's Burger Joint
King Wha Restaurant
Danish Bakery
Hayes Feed
Burien Honda
Han's Sausage & Delicatessen
Aussie Pie Company
The Highline Times
B-Town Blog

CFTR: 08/16/10
cc: Economic Development