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Hypocrisy in Action

The 25-year lease at Mission Peak Regional Preserve expired in 2020, and the park has operated month-to-month ever since. In November 2021, a member of the Fremont city council made the following comments about the 42 free parking spaces at Mission Peak's Stanford entrance:

"I really do think it is very irresponsible to have free parking at this time of where we are in the history of the planet. We cannot continue to offer free parking especially in an area where people are driving around and around looking for parking. It's really bad for the environment. We claim to be a city that cares about climate change and that (free parking at the Stanford staging area) is not consistent with that. Mayor Mei said that there's a cost to charging for parking but that isn't necessarily the case because when we instituted the permit parking in the neighborhood apparently from what we were told that is actually not costing us anything because the revenues from that are actually covering the cost so there doesn't have to be a cost to having paid parking. And I think it is very irresponsible to have free parking especially when the Ohlone parking lot charges."

https://fremontca.viebit.com/player.php?hash=ms9wwBYREuXe (03h 12m 59s)

The councilmember seems to have forgotten that in 2016 the council approved free parking permits, which gave away more than 1,000 free curb spaces to residents near the Stanford Avenue entrance. In 2021, the city cracked down on parking citywide, and hired three new enforcement employees. The new hires were billed as "revenue neutral," at a total compensation of $360,000 per year. In 2021, the parking fines at Mission Peak amounted to around $100,000, not nearly enough to cover the salaries of the enforcement officers.

In mid-2021, the city council took another step towards the holy grail of revenue neutrality. The council hiked parking fines citywide by 19 percent to $75, while fines at Mission Peak were increased by 30 percent to $82. In 2021, police dispatchers received over 600 calls from Mission Peak residents, most complaining of cars parked on the public streets in front of their houses. Residents are provided free parking and they are provided enhanced city services when their neighborhood has the lowest crime rates in the city.

Pointing the finger of blame at East Bay Regional Parking District for having 42 free spaces is hypocritical and demonstrates a bias towards entitled residents. Blocking access to park visitors is exclusionary by design and a stain on our city's reputation. We should be promoting our city's top attraction and working with EBRPD to make sure each visitor's experience is welcoming.

William Yragui
Co-Founder
Mission Peak Conservancy

At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst - Aristotle

Mission Peak Conservancy

Protecting park access