



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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27% Tax is High Enough!
Parking Industry Launches Campaign to Fight
Proposed City Hall Plan to Tax at 33%

Tax rate is already the highest in the nation except for Pittsburgh

As Chicago area drivers pulled into downtown parking garages this morning they were handed fliers with shocking news – the 27% tax they currently pay may go up to 33% under a proposal being considered by City Council. Drivers already unlucky that they need to drive to work are urged in the flier to call their aldermen to voice their concerns and to halt the additional tax.

At a parking facility on Wells and Lake Streets downtown, one driver this morning was clearly concerned about the new tax. “I need to drop my daughter off at 8am and pick up my daughter from daycare by 6pm, and I absolutely can not be late,” explained Andrea Griggs, a customer at a self-park downtown. “If I could take public transportation of course I wouldn’t drive, but I have no choice.” Ms. Griggs is not alone. More than two-thirds of all downtown parkers do so because they must drive for work.

The outreach is part of a comprehensive educational campaign launched by the Parking Industry Labor Management Committee (PILMC), which represents the operators, owners and workers of Chicago parking garages.

“We have research from other cities that show increases in parking rates hurt downtown businesses,” said Michael Prussian, Chairman of PILMC. “We understand that Chicago faces a financial squeeze. But this proposal will undermine the robust tax base of downtown, and as more people avoid coming downtown it will hurt businesses and diminish tax revenue for the city. Instead of increasing revenue, it is very counter-productive.”

“Chicago already has the highest parking tax rate in the nation, except for Pittsburgh. Every major city with a thriving downtown – Manhattan, San Francisco, Miami and others – have lower parking tax rates,” said John Coli, a Trustee of PILMC and head of the Teamsters Joint Council 25, with 4,000 members who work in parking facilities.

Taxes on Chicago parking have increased six times in the last twelve years.

A COPY OF THE FLIER IS ATTACHED

and will be available at www.chicagoparkingmap.com.

Photos of parking attendants handing out the fliers will also be available for download for publication.

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