



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Economic Development ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds

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**To:** Media

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### **Second Round of Downtown Parking Enhancements Taking Place This Spring**

***Upwards of 75 Additional Spaces Freed Up for Shoppers & Visitors***

**(Edmonds, WA)** - Following on the heels of changes in on-street parking made last Spring in Downtown Edmonds, the City has embarked on a new set of changes that will free up even more parking for shoppers and visitors. Last year the City reconfigured the on-street employee parking permit area to make more 3-hour parking available for shoppers and visitors, as well as initiated a pilot program by demarcating 20-foot individual on-street parking spaces on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues between Main and Bell Streets and Main Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

The same *ad hoc* group that worked on these issues last year, consisting of several City Department heads and a representative each from both the Economic Development Commission and Edmonds Downtown Alliance, was reconvened to explore what additional enhancements could be made. First up was a discussion of the effectiveness of the demarcation of individual on-street parking spaces. After a year of observation it became clear to the group that more efficient use of the curb-side space available for on-street parking had resulted in the areas where individual parking spaces had been demarcated. For this reason, the *ad hoc* group recommended to Mayor Earling, who concurred, that the treatment be instituted permanently and expanded to cover 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Walnut to Bell Streets, and

Main Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The “tick marks” were put in place last week, and the results are already evident.

“I wasn’t sure at first that the marked spaces would make a difference,” remarked Public Works Director Phil Williams, “but last week when I saw several blocks of neatly parked cars after we laid down the permanent tick marks, I’m a believer now.”

This small change should free up 2 to 3 parking spaces per block, resulting in a total of 16 to 24 additional spaces over the 8-block area.

Another small project that the *ad hoc* group identified involves the 25-space City parking lot on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue just south of Main Street that for years has offered eleven 3-hour parking spaces and 14 spaces for monthly parking. The group questioned the benefit to Downtown Edmonds of offering monthly parking spaces. Sure enough, after a review of the leases it was determined that all of the monthly spaces were used by commuters from Kitsap County. Some of those commuters may at times shop, dine or otherwise do business in Downtown Edmonds while traveling through Edmonds. However, the group concluded that providing hourly parking to meet increasing demand for short-term parking to serve retailers, restaurants, and personal service establishments would be of greater benefit to Downtown Edmonds. The Mayor concurred, and the monthly parking leaseholders were given a generous 90-day notice of termination, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, as well as information about three commercial parking lots in the vicinity that offer monthly parking. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> an additional 14 spaces will be available for short-term parking to serve shoppers and visitors. Signage at the location will be updated accordingly.

“While these changes may be small when viewed individually, between what we put in place last year and these new enhancements, we’re going to see over 75 additional spaces throughout Downtown to meet the increasing demand for on-street parking,” commented Mayor Dave Earling.

In tandem with the City’s efforts, the Edmonds Downtown Alliance has successfully inaugurated an after-hours parking program with the Bank of Washington on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, whereby their parking lot is made available for free public parking after business hours. Signage has been designed and installed at the site indicating the availability of the parking, using a standardized parking symbol that can be used elsewhere. And to that point, the Alliance has begun discussions with the owners of other private parking lots with hopes to expand the program.

“All in all, between the City and the Downtown Alliance, we’re taking strides to meet some of the increasing demand for parking in Downtown Edmonds,” remarked City of Edmonds Director of Economic Development & Community Services Patrick Doherty. “Convenient and available

parking is a key component to a successful downtown, and we will continue to keep our collective eye on opportunities for even more parking enhancements in the future.”

For more information about the parking changes, please contact Patrick Doherty at [patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov](mailto:patrick.doherty@edmondswa.gov) or 425-771-0251.

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