

VISITOR PARKING IN RPP ZONES

Recognizing the benefits that a residential permit parking program would provide to residents, the Chester Parking Authority (CPA, the Authority) is resurrecting the City's Residential Permit Parking (RPP), which has been dormant since the 1980s. The intent is to preserve the quality of life in residential neighborhoods contiguous to hospitals, universities, office buildings and other establishments that generate parking demand by helping homeowners ***and their visitors*** find parking spaces that would be otherwise occupied. Along with other efforts to modernize parking, the resuscitated RPP program includes the adoption of plate-based, or "digital," permitting that will make it more convenient for residents to register their own vehicles.

Implementing a program that does not require decals, placards, or hangtags offers a significant level of convenience for residents because they will be able to conduct business via the web. So, it will not be necessary for applicants to appear in person or to send in application documents by mail. Once on-line applications are approved, motorists would be free to park in the specified RPP zone. Permit holders also will have the ability to log into their accounts or reach out to CPA to manage their household "accounts" ***–including registering guest vehicles.***

The overall goal of the program is to keep non-residents from parking on restricted blocks, preserving those spaces for permitted parkers; however, the issuance of visitor parking permissions is an important service component of CPA's RPP program. The Authority understands that residents will have occasion to accommodate a range of visitors, including relatives, caregivers, and service providers. So, the program was designed to accommodate the "issuance" of Guest Parking permits that allow those visitors to park in the residential parking zone associated with a household during posted hours. All residents will have the ability to log into their accounts and add guests by providing the dates that they are requesting and the license plate state/number of a visitor's vehicle. ***Until the RPP web portal is installed, residents expecting visitors should call 484.480.4423 and leave a message providing your visitor's plate number and the duration of your visitor's stay. Residents planning an event with multiple guest vehicles attending should call 484.480.4423 and leave a message with the Address/Dates/Times of the event so that CPA can relax enforcement during the event.***

Regardless of whether an RPP program is paper- or plate-based, abuse of permits issued for residents' visitors and guests presents a program vulnerability. Since CPA is committed to a fully digital permit program, it was necessary to establish strict "business rules" to govern the assignment of guest parking privileges to license plates to prevent abuse. Accordingly, these business rules are programmed into the Authority's permit management system. And while an initial set of business rules has been established, the flexibility of a plate-based permit system allows for adjustments on the fly if the rules need to be calibrated to better meet the needs of the City's residents.

Additionally, residents in RPP zones that are expecting several visitors for events such as family reunions, group meetings, parties, religious events and/or memorial services can request that CPA relax enforcement the day of the event. Relaxing enforcement for events of this nature means that residents would not be required to register the vehicles of the visitors attending the event.