

Grassroots Group Launches Campaign for Resident Parking Permit System

*Upper West Side group lobbies for affordable parking permit system by district
For local residents, businesses, and workforce service providers with NYCResidentParking.org*

NEW YORK July 6, 2022 – A newly formed group, led by retired attorney and long-time Upper Westsider **Renee Baruch**, has launched NYCResidentParking.org, a grassroots campaign promoting a citywide residential parking permit system. Comparable to similar systems in urban centers nationwide, including Boston, Chicago, Hoboken, and Washington, DC, as well as in such European cities as Paris and London, parking permits would be allocated by designated district and made available to local residents, retail and commercial business owners, and workforce service providers for a reasonable monthly fee. In most cities, the fees range between \$10- and \$90 per month.



The call to action was spurred by the dwindling number of available neighborhood parking spaces in New York City due to such factors as streetside restaurant shelters, bike-share docks, dedicated bike lanes, and a lack of affordable parking garages. Many of the older, more affordable garages and parking lots were sold over the past decade and rebuilt as more lucrative condominium and multifamily housing. In addition, car ownership in the city has increased commensurate with the pandemic. Collectively, these issues have made it extremely difficult for local residents to find curbside parking and have equally impacted business owners and their employees, as well as building staff, including doorpersons who have no choice but to drive into the neighborhoods for work at all hours. As a result, numerous car owners are forced to drive around for hours seeking space, which has had an unintended consequence of higher carbon footprints in residential and mixed-use neighborhoods. Moreover, car owners are reluctant to move their cars for cleaning as they contend with the anxiety of not finding another space, causing dirtier streets and more frustration.

“Virtually every city in the world has some form of a residential parking permit system,” points out Baruch. “On the Upper West Side, we are now seeing an increasing number of cars with out-of-state license plates, largely for people with second homes claimed as primary residences and who would rather not pay the higher insurance to register in New York City. From our standpoint, if they don’t want to pay income taxes to the city and contribute to enforcement and sanitation, then let them rent space in a garage or park at a meter and leave the curbside spaces they are hogging for those of us who choose to pay our way here!”

Since late spring 2022, members of the not-for-profit organization have been canvassing various neighborhoods in Manhattan and are looking for more volunteers to participate this summer. They are most active when people sit in their cars during alternate side parking hours, passing out flyers to those drivers sitting in their cars waiting for street cleaners.

For more information and to download flyers, go to www.NYCResidentParking.org.



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