CHARLOTTE

City Council
Follow-Up Report

December 19, 2012

December 10, 2012 – City Council Dinner Briefing

Temporary Parking Restrictions (Bagging)

Staff Resource: Doreen Szymanski, CDOT, 704-336-7527, dszymanski@charlottenc.gov

At the December 10, 2012 City Council Dinner Briefing several concerns were raised about temporary parking restrictions Uptown, which are commonly referred to as "bagging" (of parking meters). The common complaint is that the City restricts too often and too far in advance.

The City's practice of allowing unlimited parking from Friday at 6 p.m. through Monday at 7 a.m. creates a need to restrict parking in advance of weekend events scheduled for the Uptown. The restrictions go into effect Friday afternoon prior to the event, recognizing that some motorists will park in Uptown Friday night and not return to their vehicle until sometime Sunday. This helps avoid weekend parkers leaving vehicles in spaces and overlapping the time restrictions, thus placing the vehicles in violation of the parking restrictions and subject to ticketing and towing. Since motorists are only allowed to park for two hours weekdays, any vehicle parked on-street when the restrictions are posted should have vacated the space prior to them going into effect.

The Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) has reviewed its restriction policy on numerous occasions, and frequently discusses practices with other municipalities. Staff has learned other cities have similar concerns about when and how to communicate restrictions to the public. The CDOT uses the following methods of communicating restrictions:

- Use of different colored meter bags with specific messages such as "No Parking Sunday" or "No Parking 10pm-6am, "No Parking Anytime".
- Posts temporary no parking signs that state the restricted day on the signs.
- Posts weekend restrictions on the CDOT website.

The CDOT and its partner departments will continue to seek solutions to minimize the impact of temporary restrictions to on-street parking operations.