

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS  
City Clerk's Office  
February 19, 2015

I hereby notify that at twelve noon today the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening February 24, 2015 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Marilyn Gomeau  
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
February 24, 2015

Roll Call  
Moment of silent prayer  
The Pledge  
Approval of the minutes of *February 10, 2015*

*Approval of the Council Rules of Order, which was postponed at the meeting of January 13<sup>th</sup>.*

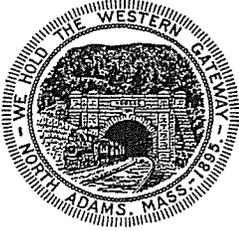
**11,446**      *Communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding a parking amnesty program.*

**11,440**      *Mayor's communication #5 requesting time to deliver the State of the City Address, which was postponed at the meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>.*

**CORRESPONDENCE  
LICENSE**

An application submitted by Craig Amos, 56 Tyler Street to drive taxi for City Cab.

An application submitted by Tracy Jalbert, 93 Cleveland Avenue #11 to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.



# Office of the City Council

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3015

Dear Fellow Councilors,

February 24, 2015

A resident recently brought something to my attention that I wanted to share with you and with the Mayor's Office. Josh Field recently visited St. Petersburg, Florida, where he learned of their Parking Amnesty Program for first-time parking ticket recipients. The program, which was enacted as a pilot in 2010 and then continued indefinitely due to its popularity and success, grants amnesty to visitors in the community who can produce \$25 in receipts for purchases made at downtown business on the day of their parking violation; upon production of such receipts the parking ticket fee is forgiven.

I am attaching the press release from the City of St. Petersburg website, along with a graphic that is part of the program. There is a reference in the article to money that St. Petersburg has lost in this endeavor; it is important to scale down/take with a grain of salt any figures indicated in the article as St. Petersburg has a population of nearly 250,000. A quick Google search of "St. Petersburg Parking Amnesty Program" will pull up a few pieces of journalism on the topic in the event that you would like to read more about the program. I have also reached out to parking staff in St. Petersburg with a few questions; hopefully I will have a bit more information to share at our next Council meeting.

I am interested in exploring the possibility of piloting a similar program in North Adams--perhaps for the 2015 summer season. This is on my mind particularly as the community conversation continues around linking Mass MoCA and the downtown. With the 2015 Solid Sound Festival coming up and again bringing in thousands of visitors to North Adams, this type of move could be an apt way for us to extend a friendly hand to tourists.

I should mention as well that Mr. Field, who is an accomplished graphic designer, has offered to design a notice to errant parkers pro bono--a great opportunity should we want to pursue it, as he has experience designing eye-catching, tourist-friendly materials.

I am interested in knowing whether the full Council would recommend referring this to our Public Safety Committee or taking another type of step to advance discussion on this topic. If it makes more sense to the Council, I would also be happy to have this communication filed and could continue conversation and possible development of a policy with staff in the Mayor's Office after this meeting.

Sincerely,

Kate Hanley Merrigan  
City Councilor

## MAYOR EXTENDS FIRST TIME PARKING TICKET AMNESTY PROGRAM

Joe Kubicki, Director of Transportation and Parking (727) 892-5274

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA (September 1, 2010) - Due to the huge success of a new parking ticket amnesty program, Mayor Bill Foster today announced that he is extending the program.

Begun in June, the ticket amnesty program was one of nine improvements that Mayor Foster made to revamp the downtown parking program. The changes were aimed at making downtown parking easier, promoting downtown businesses, helping citizens and visitors avoid parking citations, while preserving adequate parking availability and holding the line on costs during a tight budget year.

The amnesty program allows motorists who receive their first ticket to have their citation voided. In order to qualify, the citation must be for an expired meter, it must be their and their vehicle's first ticket in St. Petersburg, and they must demonstrate that they were a downtown patron by showing at least \$25 in receipts from a downtown business or restaurant. A coupon - in the shape of a key to the city - is provided in the ticket envelope, which must be taken to the downtown parking citation office with local business receipts to have the ticket voided.

In less than three months, over 550 citations have been voided at a cost to the city of \$13,750. More than \$50,000 in downtown business receipts have been turned in along with those citations. Those assisted by the program have ranged from St. Petersburg residents to regional residents to tourists from all over the world, including but not limited to South Africa, Hawaii, Denmark and Ontario.

"I am extremely happy with the ticket amnesty program so far, as well as the other changes we implemented for downtown parking. Any lost revenue is well worth the goodwill and business incentives that this program has created. I've heard many compliments about this unique and effective amnesty program from downtown business owners as well as downtown customers. I'm happy to announce its extension," said Mayor Foster.

