

## DOWNTOWN PARKING 101

Here are six simple downtown parking tips:

### 1. REMEMBER TO USE THOSE READING SKILLS BOYS AND GIRLS

Some metered areas magically turn into tow-away zones from 7 am- 9 am and 4 pm- 6 pm weekdays. Some of us, um, learned this the hard way... Read signs very carefully, many streets have special tow-away, truck loading zones and commercial zones. If you park there you will be towed. Gotta say, come of it is confusing. If you have a doubt, go with your gut and don't park there.

### 2. IF A CURB IS PAINTED RED

It means that you can't park there EVER, even if you're late to meet your date and its right in front of the restaurant.

### 3. 21ST CENTURY PARKING METERS

Most all of downtown has the new smart meters. They have almost as many features as your cell phone – but they're much easier to operate. No more digging change out from between your car seats - these meters also take bills and even credit cards! Plus, they won't accept money if you try to use them when parking is not allowed. Like, say, a 4 pm to 6 pm tow-away zone...(see tip #1)

### 4. WE COME IN PEACE

Houston's parking enforcement officers aren't just there when the meter runs out. They are now referred to as downtown ambassadors. These specially trained Parking Enforcement officers sport gold Colored shoulder cords on their blue uniforms.

### 5. WALK, IT WON'T KILL YOU

Don't forget that all of downtown is walkable. You can easily park in the Historic District, grab a drink at one of the neighborhood pubs and then walk to Verizon Wireless Theater at Bayou Place to see a great concert. If your office is at Fannin & McKinney and you've got a meeting at City Hall— WALK! This is part of our 'park-one-time' concept. Walking is more fun and adventurous (and romantic!) as well as lighter on your pocketbook!

### 6. BEST PLACES TO PARK

There are convenient City garages located in the Theater District and under Tranquility Park that are the perfect spot to park for the multitude of festivals that take place around that area. There is also a new garage located under Discovery Green Park. If you're going to the Historic District, Market Square Garage is only \$5 and it's also walking distance to the Theater District.

#### Myth busters:

**Downtown has no parking**—We actually have more than 100,000 parking spaces downtown: 2,200 on-street, 24,000 surface parking lot spaces and 75,000 garage spaces.

**Downtown parking is expensive**—It can be. Some surface lots charge a ridiculous amount in the evenings or for events. BUT if you are willing to walk just a few short blocks you can find less expensive or even FREE parking.

