

Curb these parking perks

Permit abuse by city employees has to stop

Editorial, Sunday, July 15, 2007

Along with pigeons, noisy neighbors and Michael Chertoff, few things drive New Yorkers nuttier than cars parked, usually illegally, all day long with never a ticket being issued - because the driver has an official permit on the dashboard.

Today, on the facing page, is an open letter to Mayor Bloomberg from Dolph Klainberg, who used to issue parking permits to city Human Resources Administration employees and thinks the system needs to be scrapped. Right he is.

We urge mayoral attention because Klainberg offers good ideas that would nicely supplement Bloomberg's congestion pricing plan. Also, to make up for the prissy form letter Klainberg received after writing to City Hall on this matter a year ago.

Klainberg offers some powerful stats, citing, for instance, a Transportation Alternatives 2006 study putting the number of city, state and federal government-issued permits at more than 150,000. And that's not counting the phony or invalid ones.

His basic proposal is to cease giving permits to people who use their vehicles only to commute to work and not for official business in the field. As he so correctly writes: "The continued use and misuse of this perk, unavailable to the majority of working New Yorkers, constitutes an unfair double standard that should be eliminated."