



# SBNA Newsletter



A publication of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association

September 2011

Political season is here.... Are you ready to vote? The Baltimore City elections are coming up: Primary election is September 13, 2011 and the general election is November 8th, 2011. Can't make those days? Early voting is available Sept 1-3rd and Sept 6-8th, October 28-29th and October 31- November 3rd. Please visit [www.mdearlyvote.com](http://www.mdearlyvote.com) for more information and to locate an early voting center. I wrote a feature on our District 11 councilman candidates (see page 11) - feel free to check them out before you vote!

The South Baltimore Neighborhood Association has our own elections coming up. In October we will elect a new board (Four officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). Please come out and support your candidates. Check out page 10 for all of the SBNA election information. We would love to have more participation! In order to vote in our election- you must have paid your SBNA dues (\$5) by September 18th.

Parking has been a hot topic as always: Our parking representative for Area 30, Cynthia Griffin has responded to some of the questions submitted by residents on page 12- her answers include a lot of interesting details about the parking program. She has also compiled the results of the neighborhood parking survey from last summer on page 9- this is the collective opinion about the parking program by our neighborhood as a whole. Thanks Cynthia for all of your hard work!

## SBNA NEWSLETTER CHAIRPERSON- WE NEED YOU!



My one-year commitment for the Newsletter Editor/Business Liaison Chairperson is going to be over this October. I hope to continue on the SBNA board in another capacity but the newsletter will need a new fearless leader! Publishing the SBNA newsletter has been a ton of fun, and sometimes it has been some hard work. The duties for the newsletter chairperson include: selling advertising to local businesses, coordinating the volunteers (blockmasters) for delivery, maintaining the delivery routes when volunteers are unavailable, designing the newsletter format and sometimes writing some of the content. Sounds like a lot of work but the heavy lifting has already been done: we have plenty of wonderful, faithful advertisers that purchase advertising space each month and the blockmasters are in place with their routes. All we need is a new captain to take charge of the ship.

If you would like to volunteer for this rewarding position- I will be around to fully support the new chairperson. We are considering breaking the position into more than one committee- so if you are interested but would like to only take ownership of one area, then we are taking all volunteers and suggestions! Look forward to hearing from you!!! Please contact Lisa Hughes-Wilde at [newsletter@mysobo.org](mailto:newsletter@mysobo.org)



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
Baltimore City Council

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11th District

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Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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Cell: 410-960-6622  
Fax: 410-545-7464  
[william.cole@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:william.cole@baltimorecity.gov)

Community Meetings:

Tuesday, Sept 6th 2011

Tuesday, Oct 4th 2011-Elections!

7:00pm

Church of the Advent

1301 S. Charles Street

(enter on Patapsco)

SBNA is a monthly production of the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association whose mission is "to encourage, through regular meetings, the formal exchange of ideas; to work with local law enforcement in promoting safety; and to assist individuals and families in the continuing process of neighborhood renewal." We welcome articles, ads and photo submissions via mail or email:

### South Baltimore

### Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 6474

Baltimore, MD 21230

Newsletter@mysobo.org

We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Articles represent the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of SoBo-ImCo. We believe all sources of information are reliable, however, we do not guarantee completeness or accuracy.

### Membership

Residents of South Baltimore are encouraged to become members of SBNA. Just contact an SBNA officer for more information.

### Meetings

Community meetings of SBNA are usually held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Advent located at the 1301 S. Charles Street.

### Website

www.mysobo.org

The South Baltimore Improvement Committee is now operating as the South Baltimore Neighborhood Association.

## Lot's Happening at the Light Street Branch Library



Thu, Sep 08

06:15 p.m. Friends of Light Street Light Street Branch  
Monthly meeting

Sat, Sep 10

02:00 p.m. PAWS to Read Light Street Branch  
Read with dog friends from Pets on Wheels

Sat, Sep 10

12:30 p.m. Simple Sewing Light Street Branch  
The Maryland Chapter of the American Sewing Guild demonstrates a simple sewing project.

Tue, Sep 13

03 p.m. Press Play Light Street Branch  
Impress your friends and show off your gaming skills with Wii and board games.

Wed, Sep 14

10:15 a.m. Mother Goose Baby Steps Light Street Branch  
An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

Wed, Sep 14

11:15 a.m. Preschool Leaps Light Street Branch  
Stories, songs, and fun for preschoolers.

Sat, Sep 17

10 a.m. Art for Everyone Light Street Branch  
Explore different forms and learn to make original artwork using a variety of materials.

Tue, Sep 20

04:00 p.m. Book Bunch Light Street Branch  
Book discussions, activities and an after school snack.

Wed, Sep 21

10:15 a.m. Mother Goose Baby Steps Light Street Branch  
An interactive nursery rhyme program with music and movement.

Wed, Sep 21

11:15 a.m. Preschool Leaps Light Street Branch  
Stories, songs, and fun for preschoolers.

Sat, Sep 24

02:45 p.m. Music & Magic Light Street Branch  
Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Light Street Branch. Come enjoy the Dan Meyer Choir & balloons by Magic Joe.

## BALTIMORE RAVENS

Week 1- HOME

Vs. Steelers 1pm Sunday 9/11

Week 2- AWAY

Vs. Titans 1pm Sunday 9/18

Week 3- AWAY

Vs. Rams 4pm Sunday 9/25

Week 4- HOME

Vs. Jets 820pm Sunday 10/2

Week 5- BYE

Week 6- HOME

Vs. Texans 4pm Sunday 10/16

Week 7- AWAY

Vs. Jaguars- 830pm  
Monday 10/24

GO RAVENS!!!



## SBNA Executive Board Members

<b>President</b> Gregory Blake 410.209.2349 President@mysobo.org	<b>Vice President</b> Amy Mutch 410.468.0118 VicePresi-	<b>Secretary</b> Dennis Plouff 410.385.9969 Secretary@mysobo.org	<b>Treasurer</b> Matt Eskridge Treasurer@mysobo.org
<b>Clean &amp; Green</b> NEEDS YOU! 410.929.1GRN (1476) CleanGreen@mysobo.org	<b>Business Liaison/Newsletter</b> Lisa Hughes-Wilde 410.878.0171 Newsletter@mysobo.org	<b>Social</b> Christie Blake 410.209.2349 Social@mysobo.org	
<b>Design Review</b> Justin Wilde/Stephan Lawrence Design@mysobo.org	<b>Parking &amp; Traffic</b> Debbie Alt 410.576.1017 Parking@mysobo.org	<b>Teen Council</b> Marie Sennett/ NEED YOU!! 410.837.1132 TeenCouncil@mysobo.org	
<b>Liquor License Advisory</b> Melanie Ambridge 410.935-0222 LiquorAdvisory@mysobo.org	<b>Police/Community Relations</b> Gilda Johnson 410.837.1132 PoliceRelations@mysobo.org		

We are losing some of our wonderful board members! I just wanted to say thank you to some of board members that are finishing out their terms :

Thanks Greg- your years of service as our Vice President and President will not be forgotten- your positive attitude and professionalism made being on the board a great experience and your fair and balanced approach will be sorely missed!

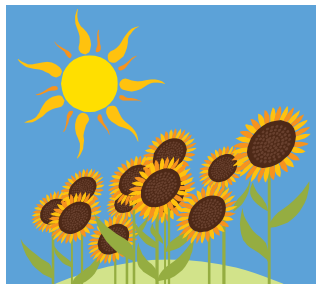
Thanks Christie- for all of the great socials. Please come back and visit us anytime!

Thanks Marie- your years of service with the local teens has touched countless lives, your passion and commitment is inspirational..

Thanks Matt- you did a good job keeping the books!

Thanks Heidi- Clean and Green hasn't been the same without you...

Saying goodbye for now, but not forever! Please don't be a stranger!

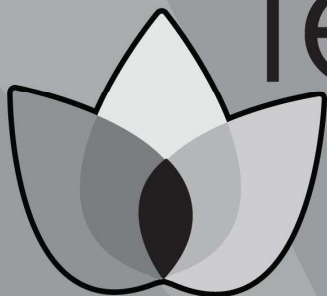


Coming Sunday, September 18th 2011, The Street Beat Festival! This is Federal Hill Main Street's largest festival of the year with thousands flocking to this free event. There is live music featured all day on three stages, food & drink, arts & crafts, Kids Kross Street, and starting this year new carnival games.



**STREET BEAT FESTIVAL**

Want to advertise? We would love to have your business! The newsletter reaches 2100 residents/businesses a month and I have found our newsletter in the hands of people well outside of our neighborhood, so they travel too! Please support your local neighborhood association and purchase some advertising!



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## BABY announcements



Welcome our newest little south Baltimore resident- Trent Blake! A cute little blonde angel at 8lbs, 9ozs. Congratulations Christie and Greg!



Say hello to Nyla, our tiniest SBNA member at 7lbs, 6ozs. She is a real cutie pie, welcome to South Baltimore Nyla! Congratulations Stephan!



*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

**BRIAN K. McHALE**  
ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

*Annapolis Office*  
6 Bladen Street, Room 350  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-841-3319

Brian.McHale@house.state.md.us

*Baltimore Office*  
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Baltimore, Maryland 21230  
410-244-8404



*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
46TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT · BALTIMORE CITY

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Think you cant make a difference in an afternoon?

You can! These wonderful neighborhoods helped some of the seniors at the Advent Senior housing plant grass along a small plot of land for local dogs to have a place to do their business. Just one afternoon of work has given their block a nice "designated pet area" and the seniors get a chance to visit with the local pets and give out free treats from time to time. Sounds like a win-win situation for everyone!

Do you know of an area that could be a designated pet area or any other community project that you would like to tackle? Contact the SBNA board and we will have the Clean and Green Committee help you rally some volunteers and get started!! Sometimes it only takes an afternoon to make your neighborhood a better place for everyone, even our furry friends.

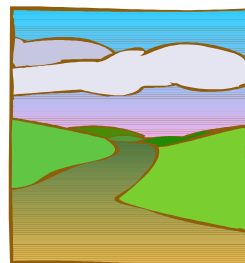
## Join Us on The Peace Path

Sunday, September 11 2011

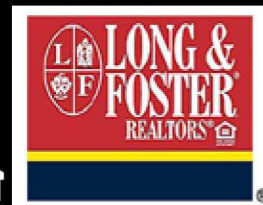
4-6pm Charles Street from Fort Ave to the Beltway

Women in Black Baltimore invite you to stand with them in demonstration for peace.

Baltimore's peace path began in 2002 as a response to grief and anger called upon by the Sept 11th anniversary. On that day, it was America's largest demonstration for peace. At rush hour hundreds lined Charles Street repudiating war, hatred, violence and injustice the world over. The annual rush hour peace stand is recognized in with a resolution of congratulation from the City Council of Baltimore. Stand with others on Charles Street or make the Peace Path wherever you are. For more information: [www.peacepath911.org](http://www.peacepath911.org)



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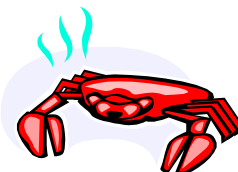
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The Light Street Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on Saturday, September 24, 2011, starting at 2:15 p.m. Memories will be shared of the building of the library, the Dan Meyer Choir will perform at 3:00 p.m., and there will be balloons by Magic Joe after the musical performance. Come to the Light Street Branch Library and join in the fun and the music. Refreshments will be served.

## Get on the List!!



The "neighbor blast" is our email mailing list.... And you need to be on it in order to know what is going on in your 'hood! Socials, neighborhood news, upcoming building developments, our meeting agendas.. They will come sailing into your inbox when you sign up.

Go to [www.mysobo.org](http://www.mysobo.org) and click on "How to get involved" or just send the phrase "Get on the list" to [newsletter@mysobo.org](mailto:newsletter@mysobo.org) and we will sign you up...



## COP WALKS!!!!

The SBNA/RNA walks are held the first Monday of every month. They begin at 7pm at the Riverside Park gazebo and usually last about 45min. The police always walk with us and well-behaved dogs are welcome. However, if it is raining, 32 degrees or below or 90 and above at 6pm the walk is canceled.



## Neighborhood Parking Survey Results

### Part 1: Technology

Which of the following updates and/or changes would you like to see made in the Residential Parking Permit program? **Choose as many as apply.**

[59%] More consistent enforcement – more officers in RPP area on consistent basis

[54%] Use of technology to increase ease of enforcement and management of permits by the Parking Authority office (i.e. to turn off permit/visitor pass if revoked or if resident moves)

[51%] Upgraded software for ease of renewal – a more “user-friendly” online renewal site

### Part 2: Permit Costs

If the Residential Parking program were to include some or all of the above improvements, updates, and/or changes in the Residential Parking Permit program, what level of permit and visitor pass pricing increase would you support? **Choose as many as apply.**

[28%] \$5.00 [22%] \$10.00 [9%] \$15.00 [33%] None  
[6%] Other One each written in as: \$1, \$25, \$50, \$55, \$100

In an effort to limit the number of vehicles with parking permits, some parking permit programs have “tiered” pricing, for example the first permit issued per residence is \$X, with additional permits at the same address priced higher.

Would you support “tiered” pricing for permits?

[66%] Yes [30%] No [4%] Left Blank

### Part 3: Number of permits

Do you believe that the number of permits allowed per residence should be changed?

[41%] No change

[57%] Fewer permits allowed per residence (now allowed up to 4 permits/4 cars)

How many permits would you like to see allowed per household?

[67%] 2 permits/residence [22%] 3 permits/residence [4%] 4 permits/residence

[6%] 2-3 permits/residence

### Part 4: Visitor Passes

Do you believe that there are too many visitor passes in use that limit parking availability for RPP permit holders in your area?

[49%] No [38%] Yes [13%] Left Blank

Of the following, what changes to the visitor passes would you support (mark all that apply)

[29%] No Change

[34%] Fewer passes per household

[18%] Limit their use further (currently 3 X's in 3 weeks)

[20%] Restrict their use during certain events

[25%] Increase rates for Visitor Passes

[38%] Purchase as needed via the Internet or at the Parking Authority

If purchased via the internet as needed, what length of time would they be valid for:

**Choose as many as apply.**

[22%] 24 Hours [24%] 7 Days [4%] 1 Month [1%] 3 Months [14%] 1 Year



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Pay your dues so that you can vote!



In order to vote in our SBNA board elections, you must pay your dues by Sept 18!

Please send a \$5 check to :

PO Box 6474

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Add your name, address and email and then you are ready to vote on 10/4/2011 for the new SBNA board members.

## *SBNA Board Duties- Election 10/4/2011- Come out and run for office!!*

### **President- Current candidate: Amy Mutch**

- ⇒ Shall preside over all executive board and General meeting using standard parliamentary procedures as defined in Roberts rules of Order
- ⇒ Appoints chairs of standing committees with approval of the membership by majority vote
- ⇒ Appoints chairs of Ad Hoc committees, as necessary
- ⇒ Acts as the official spokesperson for SBNA
- ⇒ Initiate official correspondence of SBNA that deals with non-routine matters
- ⇒ May not serve as a standing chair or as voting member of standing committee
- ⇒ May serve as ad hoc committee chair or as voting member of any ad hoc committee
- ⇒ Serves ex officio on all standing committees and ad hoc committees

### **Vice President- Current candidate: Justin Wilde**

- ⇒ Is responsible for membership development and communications, including notification of general meetings to the residents of SBNA
- ⇒ Presides over meetings in absence of president
- ⇒ Assumes the duties of the president if the office of president becomes vacant, until a new president can be elected

### **Secretary- OPEN**

- ⇒ Takes or assigns the taking of minutes at meetings
- ⇒ Maintains a record of all motions and decisions of the meetings
- ⇒ Maintains a list of names of the committee members
- ⇒ Keeps a record of all official correspondence to and from SBNA

### **Treasurer- Current candidate: Dennis Plouff**

- ⇒ Maintains the funds of SBNA, manages bank accounts, keeps all financial records
- ⇒ Makes or assigns the preparation of financial reports
- ⇒ Makes a financial report at all general meetings
- ⇒ Maintains the organization's membership list

If you are interested in running for office- please send your name to

president@mysobo.org to get your name on the ballot or attend our September general meeting and speak with someone on the board. Or you can become a write-in candidate- just attend the October meeting and volunteer your name.

Each candidate gives a 5 minutes speech to the neighbors at the October meeting.

The new president will nominate the committee chairpersons. Nominations for the Committee chairs will be confirmed at the November meeting.

#### **Current Committees:**

Clean and Green

Police Relations

Newsletter/Business Liaison

Liquor Board Advisory

Social

Teen council

Design Review

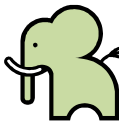
Feel free to come out for any of the above committees or if you are interested in starting a new committee in an area of neighborhood interest, the board would love to hear from you.



*Baltimore City Council Candidates~ Election: Primary 9/13/2011, General 11/8/2011*

**REPUBLICAN FOR DISTRICT 11**

Duane Shelton



What any elected official needs more than anything is a passion for the people and area they represent. I have that passion. I have lived in Baltimore City for over 20 years and in South Baltimore for over 10 years. My education includes a M.B.A. from Loyola College in Finance, and a B.B.A. from Loyola in Marketing. I am currently employed as a Financial Analyst with Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The sad fact is that Baltimore continues to lose population. It is time to reconfigure the city to reflect its shrinking population. Instead of spending millions of dollars a year stabilizing vacant housing, the City needs to come up with a master plan that will involve the demolition of tens of thousands of abandoned buildings with the goal of creating parks, and development tracts in their place

The primary drivers of crime in Baltimore are drugs and the lack of opportunity. We need a broad based approach that involves improving education, offering residential drug treatment on demand, and we need to get the police out of their cars and back out walking the streets. We need to develop trust between the police and the communities.

We spent \$15 Million dollars of stimulus money that was earmarked for long term infrastructure improvements on a Formula One race, \$300 Million dollars on a convention hotel that blocks the view from Camden Yards, and now we are being asked to spend \$1.5 Billion on the new State Center project, when half of the office space Downtown is vacant. We have the money, just not the will.

There are existing and potential competitive advantages of our City as a less expensive alternative to Washington. Until and unless we fix education and the crime rate here, we'll keep losing jobs to the surrounding, lower-tax counties. We must not ignore entry-level and so-called "blue collar" job opportunities; instead of just chasing high-tech or bio-med jobs.

We need a significant cut to the City property tax. It is unrealistic to think that Baltimore City will thrive when the property taxes are almost double that of any other jurisdiction in the state

**DEMOCRAT FOR DISTRICT 11**

William Cole



Born in Maryland, Cole has lived in downtown Baltimore for 21 years. After receiving a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland College Park in 1994 and a M.A. in Legal and Ethical Studies from the University of Baltimore in 1996. Bill was admitted to Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the national honor society for graduate and professional students.

Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly, 4 years  
Special Assistant to Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, 6 years  
Elected Member, Democratic State Central Committee, 4 years  
Legislative Aide for former State Sen. Walter Baker, 2 years  
Intern to State Senator George W. Della, Jr.

Currently

University of Baltimore: Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement (2003 - present)  
Adjunct Professor, Legal & Ethical Studies graduate program (2005 - present)  
Councilman, 11th District, Baltimore City Council (2007 - present)

**LIBERTARIAN FOR DISTRICT 11**

Doug McNeil



*From the Libertarian party of Maryland website:* Libertarians believe that both individual liberty and personal responsibility are required in a civil society, and that government welfare of all types (social, individual, corporate, and political) rewards irresponsibility. We oppose the Drug War and support the Second Amendment. <http://www.md.lp.org/>



## QUESTIONS ASKED ON THE PARKING SURVEY (GROUP 1)

**What is the legal limit for the number of unrelated people to reside in a residence?**

**A.** According to the Zoning Code of Baltimore City, only up to four (4) unrelated residents are allowed to reside in each legal residential address. Key here is the word "unrelated." If there are five (5) tenants in one legal residence and none are related, this could be a zoning violation.

**Source:** THE CITY ZONING CODE PROVIDES THAT NO MORE THAN ONE "FAMILY" MAY OCCUPY A DWELLING UNIT AND PERMITS FOUR UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS TO QUALIFY AS A FAMILY IF THEY LIVE TOGETHER AS A "SINGLE HOUSEKEEPING UNIT" **DOUGLAS M. ARMSTRONG ET AL. v. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE ET AL.** Circuit Court for Baltimore City Case No. 24-C-06-005987.

**Q. Is there a "permit limit based on bedrooms/residents/square footage" option for number of permits per residence?**

**A.** No, the Residential Parking Program permit limit correlates with the Zoning Code of Baltimore City in which only up to four (4) unrelated individuals may legally occupy a residence, limiting the number of permits per residence as up to four (4).

**Q. Why do rental apartments have the same four (4) permit limit as single family residences?**

**A.** Currently if a property has been legally subdivided and registered as multi-family units, then each unit or apartment is a legal residence and therefore as a legal residence, each unit qualifies for up to 4 permits (city wide) and the number of visitor passes set by that residential parking area.

**Q. Isn't it illegal to issue permits in the state of Maryland to a vehicle with out of state tags?**

**A.** Yes and no. According to the Baltimore City RPP website: [Vehicles Must Be Registered to an RPP Address](#)

Exceptions with current documentation are:

- Enrolled full time student in a local educational institution
- A member of the Armed Forces
- Sufficient notarized documentation to certify exclusive use of a vehicle not registered in their name.
- Dual residency  
Leased vehicles - leasing agreement (contract) must be presented with vehicle registration.

**Note:** Maryland Law prohibits local authorities from issuing an RPP permit in excess of 30 days to any vehicle registered outside of Maryland unless the owner of the vehicle has obtained a Maryland MVA Nonresident Permit (\$27.00)

**Q. What is the city wide limit for number of visitor passes available per residence?**

**A.** Baltimore City Residential Parking Program has a ceiling of 2 visitor passes in any given RPP area; however, the decision as to how many visitor passes a residence may have is made at the time that particular RPP area is established. Some areas such as Mount Vernon (28) have no visitor passes, some such as Federal Hill South (19) have 2. Area 30 and its origin program Area A have ever only had 1 visitor pass per residence.

**Q. What is the current definition of visitor pass abuse and is it enforced?**

**A.** The rules and definitions for Visitor pass use may be found printed on the back of each visitor pass. Abuse is defined on the back as follows:

**"ABUSE: ABUSE OF A VISITOR PASS IS DEFINED AS ANY VEHICLE DISPLAYING THIS PERMIT 3 OR MORE TIMES A WEEK FOR 3 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS. PERMITS MUST BE SURRENDERED TO THE PARKING AUTHORITY UPON REQUEST."**

Currently enforcement is difficult but plans are to have visitor passes issued with radio frequency identification (RFID) tags in the future. RFID tags are intelligent bar codes that can talk to the networked Enforcement system to track every visitor pass. Equipped enforcement cars will then be able to simply drive down the street and scan the RFID tag embedded in the visitor pass for validity.

It also states on the back of the Visitor Pass that using a visitor pass daily to avoid obtaining decals/ parking permits is prohibited:

**"VISITOR PERMITS MAY NOT BE USED BY RESIDENTS IN LIEU OF A DECAL."**

**Q. Why aren't visitor passes required to be turned in when a tenant moves?**

**A.** If a resident is no longer living in Area 30, they are no longer qualified to continue using the visitor pass. However, PABC has no way of knowing when tenants move out until the new tenants bring their new leases in to apply for permits and a pass.

But as noted above, plans to embed RFID tags in visitor passes are in the planning stages. With these embedded tags, the PABC office will be able to remotely turn off visitor passes (perhaps eventually permits) when the new tenants move into a rental unit resulting in the former out of area tenants parking on the street subject to a violation notice if they continue to use the now invalid visitor pass.

Also, even though on the surface it would appear to be a kind gesture to allow the incoming tenants use of the balance of time on your visitor pass it is also illegal:

**"OWNERSHIP OF THIS PASS IS NON-TRANSFERRABLE."**

**"ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY PROVISION OF THIS IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1000 OR TO IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 12 MONTHS OR TO BOTH FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH OFFENSE."**

**Parking Tip Of the Month:** Should you purchase a new vehicle, make sure the new vehicle and tag information is entered into the RPP database at [www.area30parkingpermits.com](http://www.area30parkingpermits.com), while taking in your new registration and your old permit (even pieces will do) to avoid an additional \$20 charge.

Anytime you get new tags, doubly make sure the tag info is entered correctly, as there have been vehicles with new tags issued permits punched for the old tags due to non-updating of vehicle information in the system – this resulted in tickets for having incorrectly punched permits. To be safe, make sure the punch on your permit is the first and last numbers or letters of your vehicle tag, and if you purchase more than one permit at a time you check the punches with the tag to make sure the permit is on the correct vehicle.