

MEMORANDUM

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

DATE: September 30, 2008

TO: All News Media

FROM: Pam Ritsema, Parking Services Director
Patrick Bush, Traffic Safety Director

SUBJECT: Traffic and Parking Advisory - Calder Plaza Event

On Thursday, October 2, 2008, Senator Obama will be hold a rally on the Calder Plaza, entry to the event will begin at 7:30 am and the program will begin at 9:30 am. The event is expected to bring several thousand people to downtown Grand Rapids. In addition, the Michigan Business Educational Association Convention is being held at DeVos Place.

The City's Traffic Management Team has been working to mitigate the traffic and parking impacts resulting from this event. Traffic and Parking mitigation plans to date consist of:

- Visitor parking available in many city and private parking ramps and lots
- Regular DASH parking and shuttles are available
- Deployment of the Police Department Traffic Control Unit for intersection control
- Deployment of additional Parking Services Personnel
- Preservation of monthly permit parking spaces for the City's parking customers
- Preservation of turnover parking for downtown retail and office customers
- Communications to Parking Service customers and the general public

Space will be reserved for monthly parking customers in their usual City Parking Services ramp or lots. Monthly permit parkers may see a "lot full" sign at their ramp or lot, but are reminded that they will be admitted to their space by showing their parking card.

It is likely the downtown streets will be congested on Thursday morning. It is anticipated that the west lane of Ottawa will be closed. Intermittent street closings are also anticipated as the event begins.

Event attendee parking will be available in the following locations: Rates quoted are Grand Rapids Parking Service rates, other rates are determined by the provider.

Location	Visitor Spaces	Cost
Government Center	300	\$7.00 pay on entry
DeVos Place	480	\$7.00 pay on entry
Area 8	30	\$2.00 pay on entry
Area 9 – Enter off Seward at the booth off Jackson	200	\$2.00 pay on entry
Louis Campau	50	\$7.00 pay on entry
Pearl Ionia	100	\$6.00 pay on entry
Monroe Center	100	\$7.00 pay on entry
Ottawa Fulton	250	\$7.00 pay on entry
Area 5 – North Entrance	50	\$3.00 pay on entry
Area 3	50	\$3.00 pay on entry
Area 6A	50	\$2.00 pay on entry
Scribner	50	\$3.00 pay on entry
North Monroe	50	\$3.00 pay on entry
Amway Hotel Ramp	100	Pricing unknown
JW Marriott	350	Pricing unknown
Ford Museum North Lot	150	Pricing unknown
Ellis Parking Sears Lot (Enter off Pearl or Monroe)	50	Pricing unknown
Ellis Parking Division and Library Lot	50	Pricing unknown
Ellis Parking Pearl and Ottawa Lot	125	Pricing unknown
Ellis Parking Midtown Ramp	300	Pricing unknown
Ellis Parking 210 Ionia Lot	200	Pricing unknown
Grand Valley State University Front and Watson Lots	400	Pricing unknown

On street meter parking is available. Parking meters and other violations will be enforced. Inexpensive on street parking is available on the west side of Monroe, north of Michigan (72 metered spaces at \$0.25 per hour. Free on street parking is available on Ionia, north of Newberry (approximately 60 spaces).

The following travel tips should help make your day easier:

- Plan ahead as much as possible and pick your route carefully
- The North Monroe entrance and exit to the Government Center Parking Ramp will be closed for the event
- Consider parking in the DASH West lots (\$2.00). DASH West service begins at 5:45 am
- Consider parking in the first available parking facility, as facilities closer in will more than likely be full
- Arrive early and plan on walking between parking and your final destination
- Parking map is available at: http://www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us/index.pl?page_id=413

For more information regarding Parking services, call 616-456-3290