



THE RIDE

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There are now over 1,200 zones in the city, restrict residents. Where was th

SUBTRACTING A STICKER

Del Valle: Parking zone residents will get numbers on city decal

Chicago drivers who live in one of the city's more than 1,200 residential parking districts will have a little more room on their windshields this year.

Parking zone residents will get their zone numbers printed on their city's vehicle stickers, eliminating the need for a second sticker, according to City Clerk Miguel Del Valle.

This is one of a series of improvements in the processing of the city's 1.3 million vehicle stickers this year, according to Del Valle.

"We are going to have a much more efficient operation," Del Valle said.

This year's city stickers will include new safety features to prevent counterfeiting and discourage theft. Each sticker will now include



the car's license plate number, so they will be tough to reproduce. Counterfeit stickers have been sold on the black market for as little as \$25, compared with the city fee of \$75 for passenger vehicles and \$120 for SUVs.

To discourage theft, the design includes reflective "sparkles," which will come off if the sticker is removed. The reflective particles also will make the sticker difficult to photocopy or scan.

The combined vehicle/parking sticker,

along with other innovations like printing stickers on "self-mailers" to eliminate the need for envelopes, will save the city over \$130,000 a year in mailing and paper costs. The clerk's office also expects to save an as-yet uncalculated number of staff overtime hours.

Another time saver is that one-day guest parking stickers will no longer need to have the residential zone number punched in, using antique, hand-operated perforation machines.

Guest stickers also will no longer be distributed in books, with two sticking strips on each side, and will instead be issued in sheets, so guests can peel off individual stickers to place them

on their windshields.

Residents can buy vehicle stickers online, by responding to a mailed renewal notice, or in person at City Hall or a satellite office (see www.chicityclerk.com for details). Vehicle owners also can buy stickers at 400 community vendors, including currency exchanges and Dominick's grocery stores. Community vendors charge a \$5.50 fee.

City vehicle owners who buy stickers in person need to know their license plate numbers, because the city does not have everyone's number in the system.

Current city stickers expire June 30, so people should start receiving renewal notices by regular or e-mail soon. Stickers bought after July 15 include a \$40 late fee.

Sticker sales raise \$100 million a year to maintain city streets.

This year's sticker design by Denise Ferguson, a senior at Corliss High School, promotes "dog friendly Chicago."

In the future, Del Valle hopes to stagger sticker sales, so they don't all have to be bought at one time of the year.

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