

Promise them anything

City Hall promised a reduction in placards and a crackdown on their abuse. All as part of an effort to reduce congestion, or was just to curry favor with constituencies it sought to woo to support the congestion tax. Bottom line remains City Hall must act to address inappropriate and illegal uses of placards. It also ought to look at measures that would reduce the use of city streets by official and placard-using vehicles. Would they like to chat?

http://www.nypost.com/seven/07272009/news/regionalnews/a_walk_in_the_park_181531.htm



A WALK IN THE 'PARK' BOGUS PERMITS WORK

EXCLUSIVE

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No stopping or standing?

No problem.

Despite a widely touted citywide crackdown on parking placards -- both real and counterfeit -- New Yorkers can apparently still easily flout the law by parking with bogus permits.

Transportation Alternatives, a group that promotes bike-riding and mass transit, tested Mayor Bloomberg's anti-placard movement by parking a car illegally in Manhattan last week with a fake permit bearing the name of a bogus agency, "Citizen Protection Administration."

After six hours, the green Mazda Miata didn't get any summonses.

Group spokesman Wiley Norvell, who brought The Post along for the ride, said the incident proves that "if you can go out across New York City and park with impunity, then these reforms aren't achieving what they were intended to do."

Norvell first parked the Miata on 30th Street between Madison and Fifth avenues in a no-standing zone, which is off-limits even with a legitimate placard.

Within an hour, two NYPD traffic agents appeared -- and wrote out several tickets for cars across the street.

One agent then inspected the Miata and called out to the other one, "It says Citizen Protection Administration." He then threw up his hands, shrugged his shoulders and walked on.

When a Post reporter followed the agent and asked why he did not give the car a ticket, he said it was his first day on the job. His partner declined comment and suggested the reporter call 311.

Norvell then moved the car to 65th Street between Second and Third avenues, where it was illegally parked in a no-stopping zone for more than three hours, but no agents came by.

Norvell then drove the vehicle to First Avenue between 65th and 66th streets and parked in a spot that would have been legal with a legitimate placard.

A cop walking down First Avenue checked out Norvell's handmade permit but left without ticketing the car. The officer declined comment.

Finally, Norvell brought the Miata to a broken meter on Amsterdam Avenue between 94th and 95th streets. A traffic agent drove by but ignored it.

One of the reforms that Bloomberg instituted last year was having placards distributed only by the NYPD and city Department of Transportation.

"Thanks to the mayor's efforts, there has been a noticeable reduction in the misuse and abuse of placards generally," said Jason Post, a spokesman for Bloomberg.



MAGIC PASS: This fake placard bought six hours of parking in four neighborhoods.



WHAT THE ... A traffic agent sees the bogus placard on 30th Street at Madison.



SEE NO EVIL: An agent looks the other way on First Avenue between 65th and 66th.



SITTING PRETTY: The Miata is parked at a broken meter as an agent drives by.