



TRANSPORTATION  
ALTERNATIVES

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## The Authentic Permit Act Int. 465 (Garodnick)

### The Issue

The bill requires City issued parking permits to carry a bar code which traffic enforcement agents can use to verify the placard's authenticity.

### The Problem

The Police Department and the Department of Transportation issue 78,000 parking permits on behalf of the other city agencies for their workers to use on official business.

The problem, highlighted in a recent report issued by Transportation Alternatives, is that there are **tens of thousands of counterfeit or illegally issued permits** on dashboards all over our city. Our research shows that **more than twenty five percent of permits** are either photocopies of authentic permits, counterfeit permits which were purchased online, or bogus permits issued by private groups that *seem* official- but aren't.

Bearers of **illicit permits are the bane of small business**, as they tend to park in high-traffic areas for hours on end, clogging up loading zones and metered-parking intended for customers. They also often park in crosswalks, or block fire hydrants, which decreases safety for everyone else.

Traffic Enforcement Agents should not have to devote their time to determining a placards' authenticity. Enforcement agents need to be able to distinguish the real from the phony with certainty and ease.

### The Solution

Councilman Garodnick's bill solves the problem by eliminating all subjectivity. His bill requires official placards to feature a bar code, so enforcement agents can determine with a quick scan whether the driver is legally parked. This approach is proactive and non-punitive, and will enable the enforcement that New Yorkers deserve. The bill would also make parking spots more available for small business owners to accept deliveries, for customers to find parking, and for residents of neighborhoods plagued by this problem.

Councilman Garodnick's bill will crack down on illegal parking placard abusers and open spots for everyone else, which is why Transportation Alternatives **strongly supports** passage of this bill.

**T.A. and its 8,500+ members urge the passage of this bill.**