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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking rate increase is bad policy

OAKLAND SHOULD end enforcement of parking meters at 6 p.m. and not at 8 p.m. Raising the meter rate to \$2 per hour is bad enough, but increasing the time people have to pay the meter is bad policy.

Times are bad enough for the common folks and, yes, Oakland needs to bridge its budget deficit, but does it have to be done at the expense of people who live and shop in Oakland?

Who wants the hassle of getting up in the middle of a dinner or show to pay the meter? Who wants to pay the parking fine of \$55 if they forget?

An unintended consequence of this new law is that many people are taking their business elsewhere. They are going to places that have free after-hour parking.

In the end, everyone in Oakland loses. All because the city is trying to squeeze a few extra bucks out of its citizens. Not from the revenues generated from the increase in hourly parking rate, but from the penalties the city collects for those expired meters.

Dennis Wong
Oakland