For Immediate Release
November 18, 2016
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City Upgrading Parking Pay Stations with Two New Payment Options
~Pay-by-Plate and Extend-by-Phone will be available in July~

Richmond, Va. – Enhanced technology is in the works for the City's nearly 160 solar-powered parking pay stations that will enable motorists to pay using their license plate information. Motorists will also be able to extend the time on the pay station by mobile text message.

The Pay-by-Plate option will take effect on January 2, 2017. Those using pay stations can enter their license plate number directly into the machine when they pay. The system will save the information for parking enforcement officers. This helps streamline the process by eliminating the need to print a ticket and place it on the dashboard. However, receipts can still be printed for those who want them.

In addition, there also will be an Extend-by-Phone option. The driver will receive a text message notification when the parking space time is running out. As long as there is time available within the posted time zone, more time can be added via text message.

Benefits for the City and motorists include:

- Reduced paper usage, which is environmentally friendly and could cut costs by $25,000 annually
- Streamlined parking experience – no trip back to the car to display the printed receipt, or to renew parking (when text renewal option is used)
- Anticipated overall lower downtime and maintenance costs
- Anticipated reduction of customer calls by as much as 50 percent

Payment options are still coins, bills or debit/credit cards.

The City will educate the public to help ensure a smooth transition to these new technology options. Educational materials will be available for the public and "Meter Greeters" will be stationed at selected new installation sites. Staff will be trained to maintain and service the stations.

For more information on City services, Pay-by-Plate and Extend-by-Phone, visit www.RichmondGov.com.