

ATTACHMENT 6

# ACCESS

## granted

### Garage is busier this time of year



#### A word from Mario Ariza

With the holiday season approaching, this is the appropriate forum to remind our contract parking customers to keep an eye open to additional activity in the Theater District Parking complex.

Several of our theaters start their

traditional holiday programming the weekend before Thanksgiving. On the day before Turkey Day, Wortham Center has its annual tree-lighting ceremony at 11 a.m. Of special interest to contract parkers are weekday matinees of Houston Ballet's "The Nutcracker." These are all 2 p.m. shows on December 21-24, so plan on an influx of hourly parkers who may not be familiar with the garage.

"The Nutcracker" and Alley Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" will also be presented in morning performances for students, but these young people will be arriving via buses so this should not impact our operations other than additional street activity for motorists to negotiate as they enter and exit the garage. There will also be holiday-decorated shuttle vehicles transporting theater-goers in the next few weeks, so figure that into the mix.

It won't always be business as usual through the end of the year. If you're a long-time contract parker, you know this. But new card-holders may be taken aback by seeing young people darting in and about the garage. So, stay alert.

Also, as the weather gets colder and wetter, the garage sometimes becomes attractive to vagrants. Should you encounter somebody who is using our facility in a way other than its intended purpose, please call our office at 713-236-5775 and we will intercede.

Mario Ariza is deputy director for the Theater District Division of the City of Houston Convention & Entertainment Facilities Department.

### Houston compares well to rates worldwide

When we say we keep a close watch on parking rates, we don't confine our focus to the Houston market or even just to our downtown competitors. That's why when Colliers International issued the results of its 2009 Global Central Business District Parking Rate Survey we all perked up.

Colliers tracks 140 downtown parking districts around the world to provide corporate real estate executives the relative cost of parking, both on a daily and monthly basis. To the surprise of nobody, the world's leading financial

#### We're No. 21

Monthly parking rates (unreserved space) for central business districts in the U.S.:

1. New York, Midtown	\$550
2. New York, Downtown	\$500
3. Boston	\$402.50
4. San Francisco	\$350
5. Chicago	\$325
6. Philadelphia	\$314
7. Seattle	\$290
8. Sacramento	\$215
Washington, DC (tie)	\$215
10. Honolulu	\$212.33
11. Los Angeles	\$205
12. Oakland, CA	\$192.50
13. Minneapolis/St. Paul	\$187
14. Portland, OR	\$185
15. San Diego	\$180
16. Denver	\$175
Hartford, CT (tie)	\$175
18. Cleveland	\$172.50
19. Bellevue, WA	\$170
20. Baltimore	\$160
21. Houston	\$140
22. Miami	\$134.12
23. Tampa	\$133
24. Cincinnati	\$127.50
25. Nashville	\$125

Source: Colliers International, 2009 Global Rate Survey

centers are the costliest places to park.

The most expensive place to park is London, where the average monthly rate for an unreserved space will set you back \$1,020. In Amsterdam, the one-day parking average rate tops \$70. No wonder everybody rides a bike in the Netherlands!

In the U.S., as you might guess, midtown Manhattan in New York City is the costliest with a monthly average of \$550. The only other American cities to crack Colliers' top 50 are Boston (\$420), San Francisco (\$350), Chicago (\$325), Philadelphia (\$314) and Seattle (\$290).

Midtown Manhattan also has the highest daily rate in the U.S. at \$44. Here in Houston, the average

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### Fire repairs to be completed by end of year

If all goes well, a full recovery from a summer car fire in the Theater District parking complex should be complete by the end of the year.

On June 11, a fire developed in the engine compartment of an unoccupied vehicle shortly after lunchtime in a corner of the bottom level of the garage beneath Jones Plaza. Because the car was in a remote area, it was not immediately discovered. As a result, it smoldered unnoticed before becoming a large car fire. (The cause of the fire was believed to be an electrical malfunction in the vehicle.)

Once the fire and smoke were discovered the Houston Fire Department was called to the scene to subdue the situation. Nobody was

injured in the incident, but two vehicles were destroyed and several others damaged.

"Because of where it was located, well away from the parking office and on the lowest level, nobody saw any sign of fire or smoke until it was too late," said Lannie Leshner of the Theater District Parking management team. "Had the situation taken place in a more public area, someone would have seen it and reported it before it became a larger problem. In these rare instances, our personnel can put out small fires with extinguishers, though we do call HFD as a precaution."

In the week after the fire, up to 250 parking spaces were taken out of service as clean up crews

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# What's Happening In the Theater District November/December/January

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## In November

### Alley Theatre

Gruesome Playground Injuries, November 10-15  
A Christmas Carol, November 20-22, 24, 27-29  
The Santaland Diaries, November 28-29

### Houston Ballet

The Nutcracker, Wortham Center, November 27-29

### Houston Grand Opera

Lohengrin, Wortham Center, November 13, 15

### Houston Symphony

Rachmaninoff's First Symphony, Jones Hall, November 13-15  
Mahler's Da Lied von der Erde, Jones Hall, November 19, 21-22

### Society for the Performing Arts

Mariza, Jones Hall, November 12  
Trey McIntyre Project, Wortham Center, November 13  
Leif Ove Andsnes, Wortham Center, November 22

### Other Events

Regina Spektor, Verizon Theater, November 10  
Rob Zombie, Verizon Theater, November 11  
Dethklock & Mastodon, Verizon Theater, November 12  
Jewel, Verizon Theater, November 13  
Buffalo Bayou Boat Tours, November 14  
Down Syndrome Buddy Walk, Jones Plaza, November 14  
Playground of Love, Hobby Center, November 14  
Doctor's Orchestra, Wortham Center, November 15  
Masquerade Theater's A Christmas Carol,  
Hobby Center, November 20-22  
AFI, Verizon Theater, November 21  
City Ballet's Youth Nutcracker, Wortham Center, November 24  
Wortham Center Tree Lighting Ceremony, Grand Foyer, November 25  
Puscifer, Jones Hall, November 27  
Mannheim Steamroller, Verizon Theater, November 29

## In December

### Alley Theatre

A Christmas Carol, December 1-27 (excluding Mondays and Dec. 25)  
The Santaland Diaries, December 1-27  
(excluding Mondays and Dec. 25)

### DaCamera of Houston

A Little Day Music, Wortham Center, December 2  
Dianne Reeves, Wortham Center, December 4

### Houston Ballet

40th Anniversary Jubilee of Dance, Wortham Center, December 4  
The Nutcracker, Wortham Center, December 5-6, 10-27  
(excluding Dec. 14-15 and Dec. 25)

### Houston Symphony

The Twelve Days of Christmas, Jones Hall, December 5  
Garrison Keillor's Christmas, Jones Hall, December 9

### Houston Symphony cont.

A Very Merry Pops, Jones Hall, December 11-13  
Handel's Messiah, Jones Hall, December 18-20

### Theatre Under The Stars

The Sound of Music, Hobby Center, December 8-21  
(excluding December 14)

### Society for the Performing Arts

Bowfire, Jones Hall, December 3

### Other Events

Jackson Browne, Verizon Theater, December 1  
Mixteco Ballet Folklorico, Wortham Center, December 5  
Virtuosi of Houston, Hobby Center, December 6  
311, Verizon Theater, December 6  
Buffalo Bayou Boat Tours, December 12  
Bayou City Performing Arts, Jones Hall, December 15  
Jim Brickman Christmas, Wortham Center, December 16  
Underoath, Verizon Theater, December 16  
Sandra Organ Dance Co., Hobby Center, December 19-20  
Shen Yun Divine Performing Arts, Jones Hall, December 21-23  
Lyrica's Neapolitan, Hobby Center, December 31

## In January

### Alley Theatre

Wonderland, January 15-31 (excluding January 18 and 25)  
Imprint: David Wroblewski, January 25  
Mrs. Mannerly, January 29-31

### Broadway Across America

A Chrous Line, Hobby Center, January 5-17 (excluding Jan. 11)

### Houston Grand Opera

Tosca, Wortham Center, January 22, 30  
The Turn of the Screw, Wortham Center, January 29, 31

### Houston Symphony

Mahler's First, Jones Hall, January 7, 9-10  
Rhapsody in Blue, Jones Hall, January 15-17  
The Planets – An HD Odyssey, Jones Hall, January 21, 23-24

### Society for the Performing Arts

Mark Morris Dance Group, Wortham Center, January 15-16



The Houston Ballet  
presents The  
Nutcracker at the  
Wortham Center  
November 27-29,  
December 5-6,  
10-27 (excluding  
December 14-15  
and 25.)

# You've asked us...

## Does the garage have a problem with ants?

A problem was reported in the northeast corner of the garage, near the entry to the Alley Theatre. We located the main swarm of ants at a manhole cover adjacent to Stair N on the Purple Level and our maintenance engineers exterminated the area. This should resolve the problem, but please call the garage office at 713-236-5775 if this or any other nuisance is noted.

## I work for a major downtown employer. How do I go about obtaining a monthly parking contract?

The first step is to see if parking in the Theater District complex is a perk your company offers. If so, your employer probably has an employee parking administrator who arranges the monthly contracts.

## May I use a credit card to pay for parking in the garage for evening events?

No, but you can use your access card for 24/7 privileges in the garage. For those who do not have an access card, only cash and checks are accepted for the flat fee upon entering the garage at night. This promotes faster entry before the curtains rise inside the theaters.

## Can I use my access card at Entrance 3 at the corner of Walker and Bagby?

The short answer is no. The garage that serves employees and visitors at the City Hall Annex is officially part of the Theater District Parking system, but in name only. Entrance 3 (see map on page 4) is administered by another city department and their system does not recognize your access card. Moreover, it is not connected to the rest of the garage system below street level (although it is connected by a pedestrian tunnel).

Access card holders have 24/7 privileges at all other seven entrances to the remainder of the garage complex.

## I am attending a theater event on Saturday night. I want to leave my car overnight and pick it up Sunday at mid-morning. What is the fee?

If you are an access card holder, there is no fee. You enjoy around-the-clock parking privileges. But for those who don't have their card with them or are not card holders, the \$7 event rate you paid the night before ends at 6 a.m. the following morning. After that, you must pay the additional hourly rate schedule, which ranges from \$3 to a max of \$9.

## Is there any way to treat stairwells and other areas prone to slipperiness?

Our staff works to paint stairwell landings and other areas affected by rain and condensation. We add extra non-slip grit to the paint to increase the grip on the floor. Please contact the parking office at 713/236-5775 if you notice areas that may have eluded our attention.

## Lots C and H are both convenient to my job. Do you sell monthly contracts for them?

Yes. We use a hang-tag system at both lots, which are located just across the bayou on Rusk. The rate is \$48 per month. Hang tags can be purchased in the parking office.

## How do I get an escort to my vehicle?

Please call the security office at 713-236-5797 to arrange for a guard to escort you to your car. There is, of course, no charge for this service. Please call the parking office at 713-236-5775 regarding pop-a-lock service, battery jumps and assistance of any kind.

## Are any gates open for contract parkers on Saturday and Sunday mornings?

Entrance No. 1 on Rusk Street, behind the federal courthouse, is open 24/7.

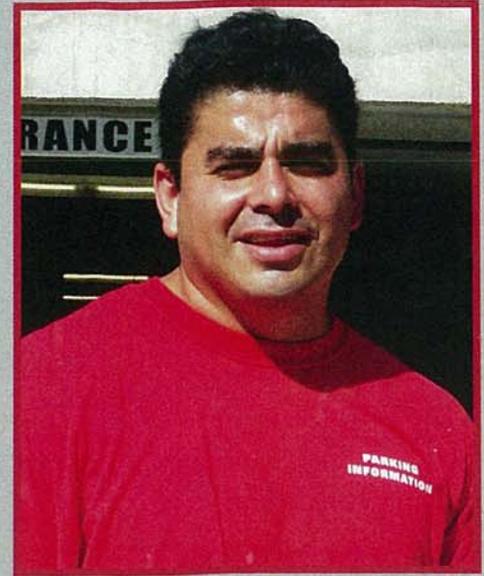
### WRITE US, PLEASE

Like what you see? Have a complaint? Either way, tell us about it. Write to us at: [parkinginfo@theaterdistrictparking.org](mailto:parkinginfo@theaterdistrictparking.org)

### WANT IT IN E-MAIL?

Would you prefer to have Access Granted e-mailed to you in a PDF format? Send a message to [parkinginfo@cityofhouston.net](mailto:parkinginfo@cityofhouston.net)

## Faces in the Garage



Daniel Ibarra gets a lot of fan mail these days. And why not? Our parkers appreciate him for the terrific customer service skills he consistently demonstrates. In recent weeks, one wrote to call out his "professionalism" and "prompt service." Another wrote to hail him as a "wonderful, caring employee." We agree. Daniel has been on the scene for four years and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of our customers. Bravo, Daniel.

## ROCK THIS WAY

Present this ad and receive a complimentary Hard Rock souvenir with \$25 purchase.

Offer expires 12/31/09. Not valid with other offers, one per person per visit. Valid only at Houston location.



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**RATES**

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monthly rate is \$140 and the daily rate is \$12. This more or less mirrors our Theater District Parking rate structure of \$145 and \$9. Houston ranks 21st among U.S. monthly markets.

The cheapest place in the world to park? Mumbai, India, at \$25.68 a month.

Colliers concludes that parking appears immune to economic downturns as this year even London, with its sky-high rates, registered slight increases over its 2008 rates.

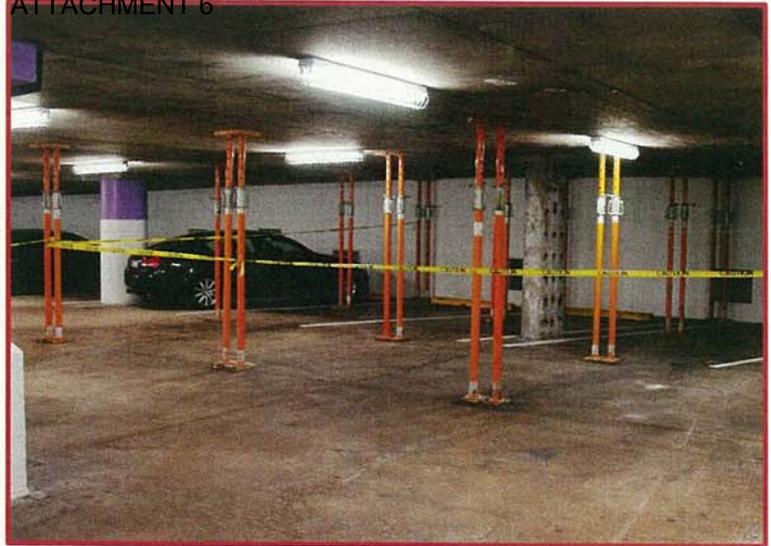
**Top 20 Global - Daily Rates**

1. Amsterdam	\$70.77
2. London – City	56.68
3. Vienna	56.62
The Hague (tie)	
5. Oslo	55.69
6. Tokyo	52.50
7. London – West End	51.82
8. Copenhagen	47.28
9. Sydney	44.10
10. NY – Midtown	44.00
11. Helsinki	41.05
12. Dubai	40.00
13. Rotterdam	38.22
14. Brisbane	38.09
15. NY – Downtown	38.00
16. Zurich	37.51
17. Utrecht, Netherlands	36.80
18. Honolulu, HI	35.50
19. Dusseldorf	35.39
Madrid (tie)	

**Handy Links**

- [Theaterdistrictparking.org](http://Theaterdistrictparking.org)
- [Houstontheaterdistrict.org](http://Houstontheaterdistrict.org)
- [Worthamcenter.org](http://Worthamcenter.org)
- [Joneshall.org](http://Joneshall.org)
- [Theaterdistrictoutdoors.org](http://Theaterdistrictoutdoors.org)
- [Houstontx.gov](http://Houstontx.gov)
- [Houstonballet.org](http://Houstonballet.org)
- [Houstongrandopera.org](http://Houstongrandopera.org)
- [Houstonsymphony.org](http://Houstonsymphony.org)
- [Alleytheatre.org](http://Alleytheatre.org)
- [Dacamera.com](http://Dacamera.com)
- [Spahouston.org](http://Spahouston.org)
- [Tuts.com](http://Tuts.com)
- [Broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://Broadwayacrossamerica.com)
- [Thehobbycenter.org](http://Thehobbycenter.org)

**ATTACHMENT 6**



Work to restore damaged area of the garage should be complete by the end of the year.

**FIRE**

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restored the area. Today, 10 spaces remain cordoned off to allow workers to shore up one column and the ceiling that was damaged by the heat of the fire.

Leshner credited Wackenhut Security and TD Industries for their assistance under difficult conditions.

“Wackenhut did an excellent job in ensuring pedestrian safety and traffic control throughout the incident, while TDI exercised proper procedures in shutting off intake fans and assisting the fire department,” Leshner said. “The garage staff had a fire drill a month earlier and when the real thing happened, everyone knew what to do.”

**Theater District Parking is accessible at the following locations:**

- 1 Rusk Street @ Bagby**  
Wortham Center  
Jones Hall  
Bayou Place  
Alley Theatre  
Federal Building
- 2 Rusk Street @ Bagby**  
Hobby Center  
Visitors Center  
Federal Building  
City Hall  
City Hall Annex
- 3 Walker @ Bagby**  
Hobby Center  
City Hall  
City Hall Annex
- 4 Capitol @ Louisiana**  
Wortham Center  
Jones Hall  
Bayou Place  
Alley Theatre
- 5 Capitol @ Smith**  
Hobby Center  
Visitors Center  
Federal Building  
City Hall  
City Hall Annex
- 6 Texas @ Bagby**  
Wortham Center  
Jones Hall  
Bayou Place  
Alley Theatre
- 7 Texas @ Smith**  
Wortham Center  
Jones Hall  
Bayou Place  
Alley Theatre
- 8 Prairie @ Smith**  
Wortham Center  
Jones Hall  
Bayou Place  
Alley Theatre

<p><b>City Management</b> Lannie Leshner - 713.236.5760 Reginald Randolph - 713.236.5760 FAX - 713.315.4862</p>	<p><b>Republic Parking:</b> Curt Jones - 713.236.5775 FAX - 713.315.4827 <b>Initial Security:</b> Office - 713.236.5797</p>
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