



**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

August 27, 2003

HC-84-03: Unauthorized Vehicles in Parking Spaces

The United States Mission presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the implementation of the Diplomatic Parking Program in the City of New York, announced in a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (A/AC.154/355 of August 26, 2002) and by circular diplomatic note HC-50-02 from the United States Mission dated September 24, 2002.

Permanent Missions have registered complaints that non-authorized vehicles often park in the designated, dedicated diplomatic parking spaces which are reserved for each Permanent Mission's service-decaled vehicles twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Most of these vehicles are private cars or commercial trucks, but from time to time, official New York City vehicles or vehicles with handicapped or other placards also park illegally in reserved diplomatic spaces. The City of New York does not condone such activity, and any such vehicle, including those operated by handicapped persons who are habitual offenders, should be reported to the New York City Commission for the United Nations. The Permanent Missions have also regularly complained that the New York Police Department's Traffic Management Center is often not responsive to requests from the Permanent Missions or members of the United Nations diplomatic community that vehicles parked illegally in reserved diplomatic spaces be removed, as foreseen in paragraph 44 of the Program.

The United States Mission has raised those concerns with representatives of the City of New York. The City's representatives acknowledge that the Traffic Management Center cannot always be as responsive as the City would like, largely due to municipal resource constraints and security matters. At the same time, the City recognizes that the dedicated parking spaces must be available to the decaled vehicles of the Permanent Missions at all times, or that an alternate space

must be made available. If a decaled vehicle cannot be parked in its dedicated parking space, the vehicle's operator should attempt to find another legal space. If, however, a decaled vehicle receives a parking ticket while its space or spaces are illegally occupied by another vehicle, the Permanent Mission should avail itself of the following procedure, provided that the parking ticket received was not a summons for a health and safety violation, such as parking in front of a fire hydrant or in a bus stop.

If a Permanent Mission finds that a non-authorized vehicle is parked illegally in one of its reserved spaces, the Mission should:

- note the make, model, color and license plate of the vehicle, along with a description of any parking placard the vehicle may bear and any number shown on that placard;
- call the Traffic Management Center immediately at (718) 706-6062 to request that the illegally parked vehicle receive a summons, and that a tow truck be dispatched to remove the vehicle from the reserved diplomatic parking space; and
- note the date and exact time the call was made to the Traffic Management Center for purposes of future documentation.
- The Permanent Missions are also invited to provide to the United States Mission by electronic mail (unparking@state.gov) all information on the illegally parked vehicle and the date and the time the call was made to the Traffic Management Center so that the United States Mission also has a record of the event.
- If a decaled vehicle of the Permanent Mission receives a parking summons (aside from summonses given for health and safety reasons as noted above) within two blocks of the Mission's dedicated parking spaces on the date on which the call to the Traffic Management Center was made, such parking summons will be dismissed by the City's Diplomatic Review Panel on appeal by the Permanent Mission provided the documentation requested above is submitted with the appeal. The Permanent Missions may also direct their appeals, with appropriate documentation, to the Parking Coordinator at the United States Mission for onward transmission to the City authorities.

The United States Mission appreciates the continued excellent cooperation of the Permanent Missions and their diplomatic members with the Diplomatic Parking Program, and remains committed to working with the City of New York to see that any implementation problems in conjunction with the Program are overcome.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.