



City of San Marcos

Reserved Downtown Police Parking Spaces

May 05, 2026



Presentation Topics

- **Purpose**
- **Background**
- **Tow-away zones Ordinance**
- **Objective**
- **Outcomes**
- **Reserved spaces exhibit**
- **Questions**



Purpose

Propose a tow-away zone Ordinance which designates four (4) high visibility reserved on-street parking spaces in the downtown area for the San Marcos Police Department (SMPD), to improve public safety, increase response efficiency, and provide law enforcement visibility.



Background

July 19, 2025: A serious incident occurred downtown leaving 2 dead and 1 injured by gunfire

October 31, 2025: Another serious incident occurred downtown leaving 1 dead and 2 injured by gunfire

November 2025: The San Marcos Police Department (SMPD) proposed to Public Works Department the reservation of four downtown parking spaces daily from 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

November 18, 2025: Public Works met with the SMPD to review and select four locations for reserved parking spaces



Background (Cont.)

December 15, 2025: Temporary reserved signs installed

February 23, 2026: Parking Advisory Board (PAB) passed Recommendation Resolution RR2026-01RR-PAB in support of this initiative

March 13, 2026: Staff received an email from the Downtown Association of San Marcos in support of this initiative

March 30, 2026: Staff placed signs at each location with the SMPD non-emergency phone number



Tow-away zones Ordinance

Sec. 82.161. - Tow-away zones.

(a) Notwithstanding any section of this chapter, any street, alley or city-owned property or part thereof may be designated as a no parking tow-away zone by separate ordinance.

(b) When signs or markings are placed giving notice thereof, no person shall park a vehicle in any area designated as a no parking tow-away zone.

(c) Any peace officer or parking technician may authorize the removal of a vehicle parked in a no parking tow-away zone. The owner and operator of the vehicle are liable for all reasonable towing and storage fees incurred in the removal and storage of the vehicle.

(Code 1970, § 29-44; Ord. No. 2003-41, § 3, 6-23-03)



Objective

- Reserve four (4) spaces for SMPD use from **5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.**
- Current ordinance limits these spaces to temporary authorization (up to ninety (90) days)
- Seek Council approval to make reserved SMPD downtown parking spaces permanent through Ordinance
- Spaces would remain available for public use during all other hours

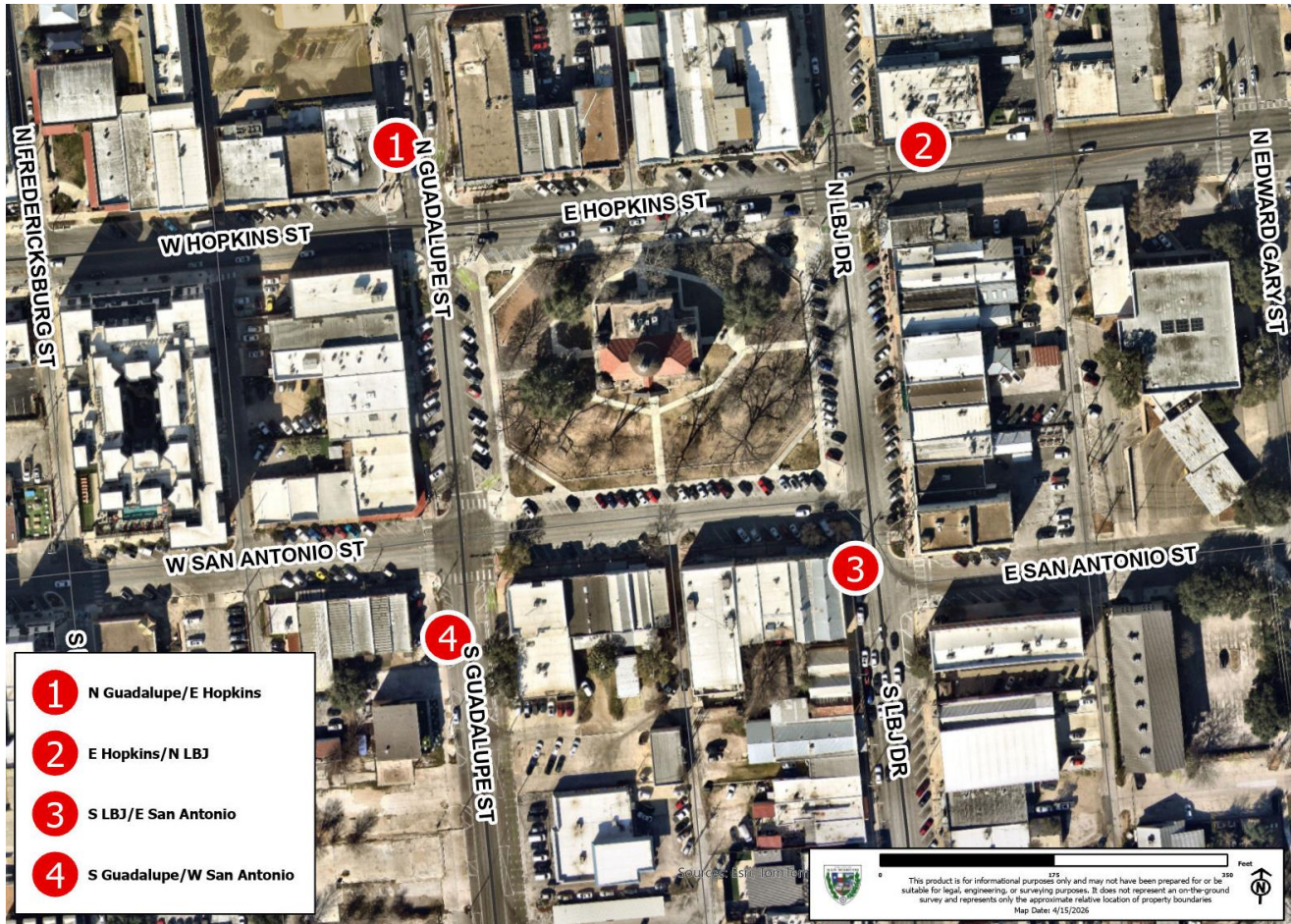


Outcomes

- Improve public safety in the downtown district
- Increase officer accessibility & reduce officer response times
- Enhance law enforcement visibility in the downtown area to lower violent crime events
- Support public safety during peak evening and late-night activity when most critical events occur



Reserved Spaces Exhibit





Space 1 – N. Guadalupe St. / E. Hopkins St.

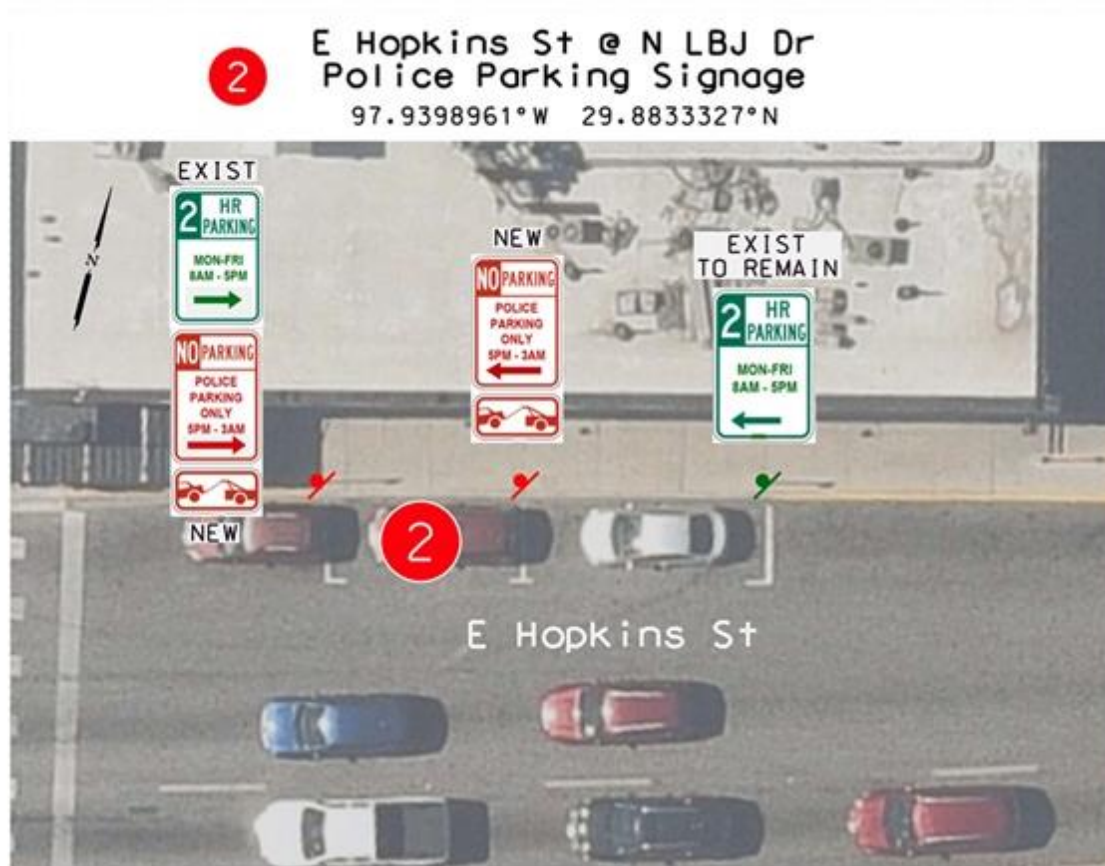
1 N Guadalupe St @ E Hopkins St
Police Parking Signage
97.9415704°W 29.8832678°N



Vehicle directional
orientation is South



Space 2 – E. Hopkins St. / N. LBJ Dr.



Vehicle directional orientation is West



Space 3 – S. LBJ Dr. / E. San Antonio St.



Vehicle directional orientation is North



Space 4 – S. Guadalupe St. / W. San Antonio St.



Vehicle directional orientation is South



Questions