



At the foot of Pikes Peak

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information Contact:**  
**Kitty Clemens**  
**Economic Development Director**  
**719-685-9741**  
**(cell) 791-321-8561**

## **MANITOU SPRINGS PARKING AUTHORITY CONDUCTS FIELD RESEARCH FOR PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**March 16, 2009 (Manitou Springs, Colorado)** The **Manitou Springs Parking Authority** released **2 community surveys** today with the goal of gaining a better understanding of how both residents and commercial building users might be helped through a more sophisticated parking management system. Parking has been a top issue in the community for decades. The community has struggled with limited surface parking areas, steep streets, homes without driveways or garages and few rear alley access points in the central business district. This newly appointed **Parking Authority Board** is tasked with the implementation of a plan that is a culmination of a process that started with a walkable audit by Dan Burden in 2003 and a downtown revitalization project that has been underway since 2004.

"Manitou Springs is loved by many...at times it feels like too many", stated Val St. Cloud, Chairman of the **Authority Board**. "That's good news, as our community is dependent on visitors. The bad news is we have not done a good job of managing and developing our parking assets."

A nine member **Parking Authority** is racing against the clock to have the first phase of a parking management system in place to help with the upcoming summer visitor season. The group recently adopted a plan developed over two years of study that encompasses input from 6 stakeholder focus groups, special event and holiday on street inventory assessments, numerous town hall meetings and City Council hearings. The **survey** being released will help the **Authority** inventory residential and commercial needs. Normal business activity in commercial areas can impact numerous residential streets and some residents are hoping for a residential permitting system. A need for better time limit enforcement has also been identified as a critical action item for summer 2009.

"We've been told that a parking space on Manitou Avenue can generate up to \$149,000 a year in retail sales, stated St. Cloud. That's \$408 per day to the shop owner. Mismanagement of that parking space hurts business owners and also the City in terms of lost sales tax revenue. We know better enforcement will move many of the time limit repeat offenders that are unwilling to pay for a surface parking lot permit to residential areas. Thus, a better picture of how we avoid any undue burden on our residents is intertwined in the management plan we ultimately implement," concluded St. Cloud.

All interested parties are encouraged to submit a survey. Links for both surveys are listed here.

Commercial Survey Link

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jX4LSbti6k46bFeLd6eSew\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jX4LSbti6k46bFeLd6eSew_3d_3d)

Residential Survey Link

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YAsEt91Tx86vBORROdnYpg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YAsEt91Tx86vBORROdnYpg_3d_3d)

Manitou Springs residents and business owners may also access a hard copy of the survey at City Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue or the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, 354 Manitou Avenue. A copy of the parking management plan and the residential supplement to the plan is posted at [www.manitouspringsahead.com](http://www.manitouspringsahead.com) under the parking button.

###

*The mission of the Manitou Springs Municipal Parking Authority Board is to recommend the development of adequate parking management solutions and improvements for business, residential, visitor and recreational users.*

Posted: January 2, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.