



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11/21/2017**

**For further information, contact:**

Nichol Figueiredo, Public Information Officer/Webmaster  
Memorial Building  
150 Concord Street  
Framingham, MA 01702  
Tel: (508) 532-5437

**Handicapped (Accessible) Parking Enforcement During Holiday Season**

**Framingham, MA** - The Framingham Disability Commission has provided funding through the HP Fine Account to the Framingham Police Department so that they can increase their enforcement of vehicles parked illegally in Handicapped (Accessible) Parking spaces during the upcoming 2017 Holiday shopping season.

**This increased enforcement program will run from November 24, 2017 (Black Friday) to December 26, 2017, (the day after Christmas).**

The purpose of this increased enforcement is twofold; to make the public aware that it is illegal to park in Handicapped (Accessible) Parking spaces or access aisles (striped area), without the proper plate or placard, and secondly, to educate the public about proper use of HP Placards and HP Plates. The access aisle which is a 8 ft. or 5 ft. striped area is considered to be part of the HP space and no vehicle, even those with a valid plate or placard, is allowed to park in that striped access aisle.

**The fine is \$300 for parking illegally in a Handicapped (Accessible) Parking space or the striped access aisle.**

For more information and Frequently Asked Questions please visit the MA Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Division of Medical Affairs link at <http://www.massrmv.com/MedicalAffairs.aspx> .

Also please review the MassDOT, "[Disabled Placard/ Plate and Disabled Veteran Plate Information](#)" and the "DO NOT and DO" list of proper use of an HP Placard.

- **Do Not** drive while your disabled placard is hung from your rearview mirror.
- **Do Not** let anyone use your disabled placard parking privileges. This abuse of your disabled placard is punishable by a \$500 fine, loss of your disabled parking privileges, and 30-day suspension of your operator's license.
- **Do Not** park illegally. You must obey all parking rules and regulations or be subject to the fines imposed.
- **Do Not** park in cross-hatch areas (Zebra Stripes), which are reserved for van ramp/lift access. Parking on a cross-hatch is subject to a \$100-\$300 fine.
- **Do Not** use our disabled placard/plate or DV plate parking privileges if you are not entering or exiting the vehicle.
- **Do Not** use your disabled placard in a vehicle weighing 10,000 lbs or more.
- **Do Not** display your disabled placard when the vehicle is in motion. This is potentially a \$50.00 fine.
- **Do Not** leave your disabled placard in an unlocked vehicle.
- **Do Not** use your disabled placard after its expiration date. You may be fined.

- **Do** display your placard while parking in a HP location. It should be hung from your rearview mirror facing **toward the front of the vehicle**. You may use the privacy sleeve to cover personal information. The privacy sleeve **MUST** be removed if so requested by law enforcement.
- **Do** park in an HP location when you need to exit the vehicle.
- **Do** use your disabled parking privileges in any designated HP location.
- **Do** realize that (when used and displayed properly) your disabled parking privilege exempts you from parking meter fees in Massachusetts.
- **Do** lock your vehicle and close the windows when using your disabled placard.
- **Do** obey all parking rules and regulations.

Here is a link to the Handicapped (Accessible) Parking Town Bylaw (City Ordinance as of January 1, 2018) by visiting:  
<http://framinghamma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/268>

The goal of this program is to ensure that people do not park illegally during this holiday season or anytime and ultimately end the abuse of people parking illegally in HP spaces. For further information or questions please contact the Disability Commission at our contact information below:

Framingham Disability Commission

website: <http://www.framinghamma.gov/2242/Disability-Commission>

email: [FraminghamDC@Gmail.com](mailto:FraminghamDC@Gmail.com)

voice mail: (508) 532-5540

###