

F. Y. I.

\$20, but Tonight, Well ...

Michael Pollak
April 13, 2008

Q. My office is between the Javits Center and Madison Square Garden. When there is an event at either, local parking lots more than double their rates. Is this legal?

A. Yes, as long as the parking lots or garages themselves are legal.

They have to be licensed, for a fee, with the city's Department of Consumer Affairs. They also have to have filed their prices with the department, and must post the different prices conspicuously for customers, in type at least as large as the type used to post their regular rates.

Other than that, the department does not regulate the prices that garages or lots charge customers for parking.

F.Y.I. would like to know where the most expensive garage is, but the city doesn't keep a record of the highest prices. So we're asking you.

What's the highest parking fee, for one day or less, that you have ever paid in New York? Towing and impoundment fees don't count. E-mail us at fyi@nytimes.com. We'll share your findings.

Excerpted from full article

F. Y. I.

Parking Highs

Michael Pollak
June 15, 2008

"The most expensive garage that I know of is on 60th and Fifth Avenue, across from the Metropolitan Club," wrote Reuben Sushman, who said in an interview that he knew about the garage from trips past it.

That information corresponded to the findings in the 2008 edition of "Park It! NYC: Complete Guide to Parking Garages," by Margot Tohn, which listed that garage, at 2 East 60th Street, as the city's most expensive. On a recent visit by F.Y.I., the posted rate was \$67, including tax, for up to 12 hours, and \$87 for 24 hours. There was a \$10 surcharge for S.U.V.'s.

Another reader mentioned a garage on East 49th Street between Park and Madison. The posted rate was \$59, including tax, for more than two hours, plus \$10 for "oversized." Still another mentioned an outdoor lot across 40th Street from Bryant Park, for \$50 for 3 to 10 hours, plus \$15 for oversize vehicles. A three-hour evening stay at a garage on West 75th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues, near the Beacon Theater, cost a reader \$51.

As long as the rates are properly posted, just about any price is legal, including a special price when there is an event nearby. "I made the mistake a few years ago of driving to view the setup of the Thanksgiving Day Parade on a Wednesday evening," wrote a Brooklyn reader, who couldn't remember the exact address of the West Side lot he found. "I had to bribe an attendant \$10 just to park in the lot.

"When I went to retrieve my car," he continued, "I was charged something like \$46 for two hours. When I protested, my attention was directed to the sign where it was clearly posted that the evening before and the day of Thanksgiving had rates that were triple, if not quadruple, the normal fee."

Several readers warned about the "early-bird special" many garages offer to people who drive in before 9 a.m. The signs advertising the special price don't always mention the special surcharge for "oversize vehicles," which often include most or all S.U.V.'s.

Excerpted from full article