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Parking Authority Rolls Out New Parking Program

LEXINGTON, KY July 1, 2008 - The Lexington and Fayette County Parking introduced a unified parking program that began its management operations today. A major focus of the program, called **LEXPARK**, is the enforcement of on-street parking. A public awareness media campaign was also launched this week to inform the public that on-street parking spaces will be monitored consistently.

The merchants of downtown Lexington have for years complained about individuals who occupy on-street spaces all day long, discouraging others from shopping and dining downtown, said Gary Means, executive director of the Parking Authority. "The whole idea of consistent enforcement is to create turnover of the parking spaces, providing visitors easier access to restaurants, stores and businesses in downtown Lexington," Means said. "We hope to guide long-term parkers into parking garages and parking lots."

Beginning July 7, **LEXPARK** will distribute maps and flyers detailing parking options to downtown residents, workers and visitors. A team of "outriders" will tour downtown streets distributing parking information and issuing warnings to vehicles parked in violation of local ordinances. These warnings will only be issued to a vehicle upon the first violation; subsequent citations will be enforced.

Drivers can pay citations and get more information on where to park at the **LEXPARK** office, located at 114 North Upper St. The **LEXPARK** office is also available by phone, 231-PARK, and online: www.lexpark.org.

LEXPARK is helping Lexington become "greener" by rolling out eco-friendly features. Outriders touring the streets of Lexington will drive three-wheeled electric vehicles called "chariots," and the parking authority will soon be testing solar-powered, multi-space pay stations. In addition, as more frequent turn-over creates more available parking spaces, fewer drivers will circle the block in search of a parking space, thereby reducing auto emissions.

The Lexington and Fayette County Parking Authority was created by ordinance (ARTICLE XIII Sec. 2-178, Res. No. 300-80, § 1, 10-16-80; Ord. No. 329-2005, § 1, 12-13-05) in December 2005, with the five-member board appointed in June 2006. In May 2007 Gary A. Means was hired as executive director.

The Lexington & Fayette County Parking Authority Mission

To provide, maintain and operate adequate, high-quality, customer-focused public parking and encourage economic growth for the benefit of the residents, businesses and visitors of Lexington & Fayette County.