Recommendation
Staff recommends that the Council amend the City’s Restricted Parking Zone to add to the Coral Zone the parking lot at the Downtown Library located at 270 Forest Avenue and four (4) on-street parking spaces on the west side of Bryant Street, adjacent to the Library. Staff also recommends that the Library lot be designated as lot “M”.

Executive Summary
In 1997, after a two year trial program, Council approved implementation of the Restrictive Parking Zone program (Resolution 7659). The Resolution established the four color zone parking areas within the Downtown Business District and prohibited re-parking within the same zone during the same business day.

The Library Department requested that the Transportation Division consider this modification based on ongoing inappropriate use of the Downtown Library parking lot prior to the recent modification of the Downtown Library. The Police Department made similar observations, in that the current 2-hour parking restrictions are insufficient to deter parking abuse because people re-park in the same area. This situation limits parking available to library patrons. Therefore, Staff recommends amending the Restrictive Parking Zones to include the Downtown Library lot and adjacent on-street parking spaces along the Bryant Street frontage of the Library in the Coral Zone.

Background
Council approved permanent implementation of the Restricted Parking Zone on April 7, 1997. The resolution established the color zone parking program by dividing the downtown area into the four color zones: Purple, Coral, Lime and Blue. It prohibits re-parking within each zone for longer than the time allowed. This program was established to address “sleeper” (persons
inhabiting parked vehicles overnight) and other long-term parking issues, and to increase the number of available parking spaces for visitors to the downtown area.

The color zone restriction boundaries are currently defined as follows: from the North side of Lytton Avenue, to the North side of Forest Avenue, and from the East side of Alma Street to the East side of Webster Street. Attachment A provides a revised map of the color zone network that includes the proposed additions in and around the Downtown Library.

**Discussion**
The Library Department has requested that the Transportation Division include the Downtown Library in the Restricted Parking Program. When the color zone parking program was established, the Coral Zone boundary to the South included only the north side of Forest Avenue. The Library is located on the south side of the Forest Avenue, so it is not covered by the existing zones.

The parking lot has sixteen 2-hour and one (1) handicap parking spaces; the four Bryant Street on-street parking spaces currently include a 2-hour daytime parking restriction. The Police Department and Library Staff report that parkers are regularly observed moving from one space to another to avoid the 2-hour parking restriction. Because the lot and on-street spaces are outside the color zone restriction, parkers are able to re-park as many times as possible without having to leave the area. This practice significantly impacts the availability of short term visitor parking at the Library. The segments of the streets (Bryant and Ramona) immediately adjacent to the Library experience similar problems.

The proposed changes to the Coral Zone boundaries would prohibit re-parking in the Library parking lot or adjacent on Bryant Street or Ramona Street. This will increase parking availability for Library users.

**Timeline**
The Downtown library reopened on July 16, 2011. The signage modifications to include the parking lot and Bryant Street frontage on-street parking spaces can be signed immediately upon approval of this resolution by the City Council.

**Resource Impact**
There is no resource impact in amending the Restricted Parking Zone Resolution. Increased enforcement costs and revenues from parking ticket fines are expected to be negligible and within the scope of current parking enforcement for the color zones. Funds are available in the PL-12000 Parking and Transportation Improvements Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project to cover the cost of the sign conversions.

**Policy Implications**
Modification of the Restricted Parking Program to include the Downtown Library and Bryant Street frontage on-street parking spaces is consistent with Goal T-8 (Attractive, Convenient Public and Private Parking Facilities) and its associated programs and policies.
Environmental Review
The Restricted Parking Zone program and this addition are categorically exempt from CEQA review under CEQA Guidelines section 15301.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution Amending Restricted Parking Coral Zone Boundary (PDF)
- Attachment B: Exhibit A to Resolution - Parking Zone Map (PDF)

Prepared By: Jaime Rodriguez, Chief Transportation Official
Department Head: Curtis Williams, Director
City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
Resolution No. _____
Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Amending the Restricted Parking Zones Established by Resolution 7659 to Include the Downtown Library Parking Lot and Adjacent Streets in the Coral Zone

WHEREAS, consistent with Palo Alto Municipal Code Section 10.44.010, the Council may establish parking restrictions; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 1997, following a two-year trial period for downtown parking restrictions, the City Council passed resolution 7659, adopting four parking zones in the Downtown area and establishing reparking restrictions within each zone, prohibiting reparking in the same zone within the same business day; and

WHEREAS, one of the parking zones established by Resolution 7659 was the Coral Zone, which includes “all parking spaces on city streets and city-owned or leased parking lots or structures within that area bounded by Lytton Avenue (north and south sides), Forest Avenue (north side only), Bryant Street (east and west sides), and Emerson Street (both sides of which are included in the Purple Zone rather than the Coral Zone).” Parking in the Coral Zone is restricted such that re-parking in the same zone during the same business day is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Palo Alto Library is located directly adjacent to the Coral Zone. Library staff have observed that the availability of short term parking in and around the Downtown Library parking lot is very limited, and recommended including the Library’s parking lot in the Coral Zone to restrict reparking and provide better availability of short term visitor parking at the Library.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does RESOLVE as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2(2) (Coral Zone) of Resolution No. 7659 is hereby amended as follows to add the Downtown Palo Alto Library parking lot in the Coral Zone:

“The Coral Zone is established as including all parking spaces on city streets and city-owned or leased parking lots or structures within that area bounded by Lytton Avenue (north and south sides); Forest Avenue (north side); Bryant Street (east and west sides) and Emerson Street (both sides of which are included in the Purple Zone rather than the Coral Zone’); plus the south side of Forest Avenue between Bryant Street and Ramona Street, the west side of Bryant Street and east side of Ramona Street 155 feet south of Forest Avenue, and the Downtown Library Parking Lot.”

A map of the City’s restricted parking zones is attached as Exhibit “A.”
** NOT YET APPROVED **

SECTION 2. The Council of the City of Palo Alto finds that this project qualified for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption under CEQA guidelines (Section 15301 – Existing Facilities) and procedures adopted by the City of Palo Alto, and therefore no further environmental assessment is necessary.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

__________________________  ______________________________
City Clerk      Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:    APPROVED:

______________________________  ______________________________
Sr. Deputy City Attorney   City Manager

______________________________
Director of Planning & Community Environment

______________________________
Director of Administrative Services