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Date: March 5, 2015
In your response please note: 59759

To
Mr. Nir Barkat
Mayor of Jerusalem
1 Safra Square
Jerusalem

By Fax
and by Registered Mail

Urgent!

Dear Sir,

Re: **Encumbrance on the residents of East Jerusalem**
Paid parking in the parking lot of the Population and Immigration
Bureau and the Employment Bureau in Wadi al-Joz in Jerusalem

1. Your immediate intervention is hereby requested to cancel the payment charged for parking in the parking lot adjacent to the Population and Immigration Bureau in Wadi al-Joz, and alternatively, to charge only symbolic fees per parking day.
2. HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual is a human rights association engaged in the promotion and protection of the rights of Palestinians, residents of East Jerusalem.
3. Parking in the parking lot of the building commonly used by the Population and Immigration Bureau and the Employment Bureau in Wadi al-Joz, has recently turned into paid-parking. Since then, the municipal inspectors vigorously issue parking tickets to cars parked on site. The parking tickets are issued despite the fact that no parking meters have been installed, contrary to the municipality's obligation and its common practice in this regard in the western part of the city, and despite the fact that no adjustment period has been given to the residents, who are used to park over there free of charge.
4. In addition, in its decision to suddenly change the situation and charge parking fees, the municipality failed to take into consideration the needs of the local population, which often needs the services of the Population Bureau, in view of the fact that contrary to Israeli citizens, residents are required to attend the bureau for the registration of children, renewal of stay permits in family unification procedures, center-of-life hearings, acquisition of *laissez passer* cards before travelling outside Israel, etc. The same thing applies to the Employment Bureau. In addition, the municipality did not take into account the nature and duration of the service in the bureaus, which extends over many hours commencing from arrival to the building, followed by a very meticulous security check and, then a protracted waiting period inside the building until receipt of service from the bureau's clerks. Many applicants are forced to park over there



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throughout the entire day with no actual possibility to exit the building for parking renewal, in view of the fact that it takes a very long time to re-enter the building due to the security checks and the heavy load, and applicants do not wish to take a chance and lose their place in the queue. Additionally, the applicants are restricted by the reception hours and the times in which entry into the bureaus is no longer made possible, until the handling of applicants that have already entered the bureaus is completed.

5. Charging applicants who arrive to the Employment Bureau or the Population Bureau with parking fees severely encumbers and impinges on the weak population of the city. Said population does not usually have an electronic parking card "Easypark" or a cellular parking application, which are operated in Hebrew. Furthermore, these measures were intended to offer residents **additional** parking payment alternatives, **rather than replacing** the possibility to make payment by parking meters, and certainly were not intended to release the municipality of the obligation to install parking meters.
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6. In view of the above, you are hereby requested to cancel the paid parking in the parking lot adjacent to the building commonly used by the Population and Immigration Bureau and the Employment Bureau in Wadi al-Joz, and alternatively, to make an arrangement in which symbolic payment will be charged for a parking day. In addition, and for as long as parking meters have not been installed on site, the municipal inspectors should be **immediately** instructed to refrain from giving parking tickets over there.
7. I am hopeful that this important and irritating issue is attended to promptly and attentively, to avoid the need to resort to the court on this matter.

Sincerely,
Abir Jubran-Dakawar,
Advocate