

Giving back: In light of rate increase, parking discounts

By CATHERINE LACKNER

The holidays came early for residents and visitors to downtown Miami, in the form of convenient parking discounts that linger on into the future.

Because the Miami Parking Authority agreed to raise revenues – and has already increased rates at some meters – to help cure the City of Miami’s budget deficit, the authority wanted to “give something back” to residents, shoppers and downtown visitors, said Arthur Noriega, parking authority CEO.

“The residential piece of this is a 20% discount if they use Pay By Phone,” Mr. Noriega told directors of Miami’s Down-



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town Development Authority last week. To register, people who live within city limits should contact the authority, according to a release.

Helpful for those who are

expecting out-of-town or overnight guests and need a backup plan: residents can park nights and weekends for a flat \$70 monthly fee, and visitors can park overnight for \$5, at the

Convention Center garage at 100 SE Second St. or the College Station garage at 190 NE Third St. Neither garage requires a decal for this offer. In addition, designated on-street spaces are now available for residents for a flat \$50 a month. A decal is required, however.

To lessen the parking bite on those who have a short errand to do, the authority also has instituted “quick-visit parking.” Anyone who parks in a Miami Parking Authority garage for 30 minutes or less isn’t charged; after 30 minutes, regular rates apply.

The authority has something special for shoppers and diners, too.

Visitors who patronize participating downtown Miami businesses from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., any day of the week, can receive discounted parking in any of the authority’s downtown garages. With a qualifying purchase from a participating merchant, they get a coupon for up to three hours of parking for \$1.

In the evening – 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., all week – patrons of participating downtown restaurants or clubs can also receive a coupon valid for up to four hours of garage parking for \$1.

Details:

www.miamiparking.com/downtown.