

Parking tickets

My sympathies to Jerry Rodiger on his recent receipt of a parking ticket after making eye contact with a parking enforcement officer who could have told him that the zone was actually "No Parking" at the time (Public Forum, June 9).

A while back, I too pulled into an open parking spot, without noticing that the zone was temporarily "No Parking" because of a street cleaning schedule. But here, a parking enforcement officer came up and pointed out my mistake. I expressed my gratitude, moved my car, and noticed that the officer was purposefully helping motorists avoid a ticket. This contrast between my experience and Rodiger's raises some interesting questions.

Was "my" officer more thoughtful because she was a woman? Did Rodiger's officer feel a smug satisfaction as he watched Rodiger put his quarter in the meter? We'll never know the answers to these questions, but I suggest that Rodiger suffered more from human nature in general than an insensitivity born of civil service.

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