

# \$PACE RACE

## Midtown parking tops in U.S.

By NEIL GRAVES

No drivers nationwide pay through the nose for parking like those in New York City — with rates soaring to nearly \$1,000 a month at one Midtown garage, according to a new survey.

The median monthly Midtown parking rate has hit \$630, with one Columbus Circle garage reaching \$925.

Robert Sammons, director of research for the Collier International Parking Survey, declined to identify the garage.

"We don't want to cause friction," he said. "But there's one on Park Avenue in the upper 50s that's close."

The survey also showed downtown Manhattan garages ringing up the second most expensive parking

### 'Poor' drivers

#### Monthly average parking rates in U.S.



#### MOST EXPENSIVE

- Midtown Manhattan: **\$630**
- Downtown Manhattan: **\$500**
- Boston: **\$460**
- San Francisco: **\$350**
- Philadelphia: **\$297.50**

#### LEAST EXPENSIVE

- Phoenix: **\$35**
- Bakersfield, Calif.: **\$45**
- Reno, Nev.: **\$45**
- Fresno, Calif.: **\$50**
- Santa Rosa, Calif.: **\$55**

slots in America with an average monthly price of \$500.

The closest American city price-wise is Boston, where average monthly parking is \$460.

Philadelphia's a relative bargain at \$297.50, the survey showed, and the lowest

rate was \$20 a month at one Memphis garage — equal to perhaps four hours' worth at most Midtown garages.

The median monthly rate nationwide was \$152.38.

With waiting lists growing, Collier said the tight real estate market is to

blame.

"As businesses occupy more office space, parking inventory in central business districts nationwide is becoming increasingly tight," said Collier senior VP Ross Moore.

But as bad as it might be parking in large American cities, it's a whole lot worse at the car park in London.

The monthly damage in London's "City" district is \$1,198, followed by the West End at \$1,162.

There's a sharp decline to \$702 for the No. 3 slot, Tokyo.

Sammons said that, sooner or later, those sky-high global rates will find their way here.

"A thousand a month?" he mused. "If the real estate market continues as it is, certainly there's that possibility."

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