

# Hayden Area Merchants Protest Parking Tickets

Several of the merchants around busy Hayden Ave. between Strathmore and Mayfair Avenues have taken the initiative to seek some consideration from East Cleveland City Hall on their parking problems.

Three of the merchants Lester Johnson, Wilbert Black and Willie Small told the Call & Post last week that police refuse to recognize

the fact that there is no off-street parking in the area. Merchants must use the street parking meters in front of their businesses if available.

The problem is that whenever a merchant may go over the allotted time on the meter, even five minutes, police give them tickets with no consideration that they are merchants sometimes

unable to come right out to put more money in the meter.

Wilbert Black, owner operator of Black's Pride Barber Shop, 1544 Hayden., said his group of friends had asked East Cleveland City Hall to issue the merchants some kind of sticker, for which they would be willing to pay, and stop the continued harassment.

While this reporter was on



**PARKING KILLING'UM**---This group of business people in the 1400 and 1500 block of Hayden Ave. in East Cleveland are tired of police harassment over parking meters. From left Willie Small, Lester Johnson, Mrs. and Mr. Wilbert Black.

(Staff photo by Alvin Ward)

the scene a white salesman with a big station wagon sedan pulled up to one of the parking meters across the street from Black's Pride Barber Shop and walked away without putting any money in the meter. The company name was displayed on the side of the station wagon.

One of the merchants said police pay little attention to violations such as that. The street is zoned for loading and unloading parking in front of businesses and apparently the police extend more courtesy to salesmen in the neighborhood than to tax paying merchants.

Lester Johnson is the owner operator of Lester Steak House, 1474 Hayden Ave. Willie Small owns Hayden Cleaner, 1564 Hayden Ave. Wilbert Black's wife, Odissa, owns a beauty shop located next door to her husband's barber shop and wig center. Mrs. Black's business is known as Black's Beauty Salon, 1542 Hayden Ave.

The merchants have been active in attempting to make Hayden a better and brighter shopping area. Black said they have worked with the Hayden Avenue Merchants Association and P.A.C (Project Area Committee) to improve the area, but this is what they get.

The men plan to present their grievances again to City Manager Gladstone Chandler.