

From: [Will Determan](#)
To: [City Council and Mayor](#)
Subject: Main street parking waivers
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[External Email]

I would like to talk to you today about the recent allocation of funds to reimburse parking tickets during specific events downtown. This was discussed during the last city council meeting, I don't think many people had much of an opinion about the matter, rather the discussion was more about the allocation of funds for the waivers. While many believe that by funding parking waivers it will be easier to attend events held downtown, I argue that by subsidizing parking we disincentivize other modes of transportation making it more difficult for citizens overall.

There is currently no hurdle for parking in the downtown area. Not only is there an enormous amount of free parking lots, but the on-street parking "fees" are miniscule and rarely enforced. There is actually a larger topic I plan on making at a later date that will be more in-depth about parking on Main street, but for now know that we are trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist. If I were to tell anyone "You should go to this event on Main street, there's free parking!" I would most likely get a shrug. It is not a selling point because parking is already free and over-abundant.

We shouldn't be incentivizing car travel. Car travel is wasteful, unsustainable, and exclusive to only car-owners. If we want to be inclusive to all we need to push for ped/bike/public transit. I believe every single city council member knows this.

It may seem counter-intuitive, but part of pushing for ped/bike/transit options is to disincentivize driving. Every time you make driving easier for someone it makes it far more likely they will drive instead of using other modes of transportation.

Lastly, I'd like to suggest instead of using funds to pay for parking waivers, we could instead fund cyride to be fare free during these events. This would more align with the current city council's values and goals as it gives people more options for transportation, while being far more green and sustainable than driving.

Thank you,

Will Determan