



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Stapp, Vice Mayor Okrepkie and Members of Council

From: Downtown Action Organization

Date: September 16, 2026

Subject: Concerns Regarding Parking District Changes and Request for Revisions

Last year, the DAO initially expressed support for the Parking District's proposed changes, relinquishing "first hour free" in garages and accepting on street meter increases to accommodate better parking options for employees and help spur more leasing in the Downtown District.

As the Parking District's rate changes have rolled out, the DAO has been made aware of significant operational and financial burdens for Downtown businesses as a result of the rate increases and loss of free parking opportunities. What initially appeared to be a move in the right direction has, in its current form, become harmful to the Downtown community.

To address these concerns and restore alignment with the needs of the business community, we respectfully request the following actions:

1. **Discounted Employee Parking Permits for all new businesses in the Downtown:** All new businesses within the Downtown Station Area should be granted access to \$25 monthly garage permits for their employees for a minimum period of two years.
2. **Incremental Garage Pricing:** All parking garages should implement billing in 15-minute increments to provide greater flexibility and fairness for users.
3. **Adjusted Street Parking Hours:** Street parking meter hours should be revised from 9am - 6pm to 9am - 5pm to better support Downtown restaurants and the overall economic vitality of the community.
4. **Free Holiday Parking:** As a temporary measure to provide immediate support to Downtown businesses, implement free parking across the Downtown from Thanksgiving through New Years Day.

The DAO strongly urges City staff and council to review the effectiveness of the current approach and implement these changes to better serve the Downtown business community.

Pauline Block, Chair
Downtown Action Organization

Cc: Jason Nutt, City Manager
Gabe Osburn, Director of Planning & Economic Development