

**From:** [Denise Duren](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** Library Free Parking Proposal  
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January 15, 2021

Re: Appeal for three hour library free parking

Dear Mayor Bennett and City Council,

I understand that Salem City Council is considering providing one and a half hours of free parking to library patrons. Currently, parking in the covered parking parkade next to the library is metered and requires paid parking most hours. Although a period of free parking for library patrons is a step in the right direction, in my opinion, three hours minimum free parking is needed.

The proposed one and a half hours free parking may suffice for most library errands, such as checking out books. However, the library entertains a great number of functions and services that require patrons to spend more time at the library, and can expect to require longer parking. As examples,

- The library is a meeting place for teens and other social groups to conduct the business of their associations which often run longer.
- The library hosts public computers for patrons to write their resumes, email job prospects and to email their relatives; I worked with AmeriCorps volunteers who extensively relied on these services.
- The library offers live performances such as concerts, that are very popular with senior patrons on fixed incomes.
- For young parents who avail themselves of story hour, they often stay with their children for the duration of the story and then procure materials afterward, and this may run longer than the one and a half hour free parking proposed.

Many library patrons are from lower income households and rely heavily on the enrichment programs provided by our very wonderful Salem Public Library and I appeal to Mayor Bennett and Salem City Council to please consider three hours free parking to our library patrons. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Denise H. Duren  
Library Advisory Board