

From: [James R LaBonte](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: elimination of parking minimums
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:30:42 PM
Attachments: [Parking.docx](#)

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

James R. LaBonte

March 13, 2023

To the Salem City Council:

The proposal to eliminate minimum off-street parking requirements in Salem is at best naïve. At worst, it is bowing to commercial interests at the expense of those of the public. Allowing “the market to determine parking amounts” is ludicrous, for the “market” always chooses the path of least expense, not one benefiting the public. Current downtown parking is already limited, especially during peak usage, to the point where I often prefer to have downtown experiences in Independence or Corvallis. Why should less parking be needed for new businesses? “Green” policies will not result in more mass transit use or fewer people, which would be the only reasons to change new parking provisions. Electric vehicles still need parking spaces. If any change should be made, it should be that many of the new spaces must have charging stations to accommodate this technology. Downtown Salem continues to be plagued by the triple whammies of Internet commerce, the Pandemic, and the ongoing homeless crisis. Allowing new businesses to provide fewer or no additional parking will only discourage downtown visitation, further eroding Salem’s economy and quality of life.

Sincerely,

James R. LaBonte
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Salem, OR. 97304