

From: [Katherine Daniels](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Lois Stark](#)
Subject: testimony for tonight's meeting - item 5b
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:46:52 PM
Attachments: [library letter to council Feb. 22, 2021.docx](#)

Hello - Please provide the attached letter of testimony to City Council members for tonight's meeting. I was unable to get through previously due to the power outage. Thank you!

Katherine Daniels
Vice-chair
Library Advisory Board

TO: Mayor Bennett and City Council
FROM: Katherine Daniels, vice-chair of the Library Advisory Board
SUBJECT: Testimony on Agenda Item 5b
Date: February 22, 2021

Dear Mayor Bennett and City Council members,

I am uncertain whether the letter emailed to you by our Chair, Lois Stark, reached you on Friday, due to the power outage. Nor was Lois able to sign up for oral testimony for this evening's meeting, again because she is still experiencing a power outage. Therefore, on her behalf I am summarizing the reasons for the Library Advisory Board's unanimous recommendation to support three hours of free parking for library patrons. We make this recommendation for three reasons:

1 – To be consistent with and support current (pre-Covid) library programming hours and library use, as very well articulated in the two letters you received, by a former Salem librarian and one of our newest LAB members.

2 – To be consistent with the three hours of free downtown parking. We see no good reason why Salem residents should have to pay more to park to use a city service than to park to patronize a private business.

3 – To support the equity and inclusion goals of the City. A sizable proportion of our residents live in poverty. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents to the City-sponsored Orange Boy survey in 2018 indicated that free parking was the one thing that would increase their library use. Elimination of parking fees was repeatedly brought up during community meetings on the Salem Library renovation project. Three hours is a reasonable compromise between fee-based parking and no parking fees at all, while 90 minutes is simply too short a time span for many library functions and users. The Library Renovation Council Subcommittee, incidentally, also supports three hours of free parking.

We appreciate your careful consideration of this matter and thank you.