

Ruth Stellmacher

From: Marissa Theve <marissatheve@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 7:25 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: comment for March 22nd City Council agenda item: Resolution 3.2.a

Hello,
I wish to submit a comment for public record pertaining to the March 22nd City Council agenda item: Resolution 3.2.a:

Dear Counselors,
What you proclaim to be a victory for equity is a bandaid. While the idea looks good on paper, free parking at the library actually favors folks wealthy enough to already afford:

- a vehicle
- registration
- a license
- gasoline
- maintenance
- parking everywhere else

Salemites have a false feel for the true cost of parking because car owners have not been paying it on city-owned asphalt. The costs instead have fallen on taxpayers who may or may not own a vehicle. Paid parking is one step towards removing the numerous subsidies that car owners benefit from, which all fuel the idea that people have the "right" to own a car- hence the Library's findings that "88% of the respondents to the City-sponsored Orange Boy survey in 2018 indicated free parking was the one thing that would increase their library use.". This idea leads to extremely car-centric planning which is ultimately holding our city back from any meaningful equity or climate-change related progress. While this gesture may seem small, it is part of a long list of indications that Salem values vehicles over human safety, health, and ultimately their own wallets.

We need to build a city for PEOPLE NOT CARS. True equity in transportation means walkability, diverse housing types in all neighborhoods (eliminating single-family housing zoning which hogs 60% of our city's zoning), complete neighborhoods, and of course bolstering the public transportation system and making it free to users (as Corvallis has already done).

If you consider who this resolution will actually benefit, the honest answer is "people with cars", not people in poverty. Painting free parking as an equity issue is short-sighted and lacks the big picture/ long term vision I would hope our Council could muster.

Sincerely,
Marissa Theve, a concerned Salemite

--
Marissa Theve
Pronouns: she/her/hers