

Sackmann, Debby

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Paul Jones - Removal of Parking Mandates - CK 4350-024-001
Attachments: kansasCityValuePerAcre.jpg

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 4:27 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Paul Jones - Removal of Parking Mandates - CK 4350-024-001

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Friday, July 19, 2024 - 16:17

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Friday, July 19, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Paul

Last Name: Jones

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Cumberland Avenue North

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Paul Jones

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Support for Removal of Parking Mandates - Creating a Vibrant, Sustainable Saskatoon

Comments:

Dear Members of City Council,

I am Paul Jones, a 25-year-old recent university graduate living in Varsity View and working at Calian Ltd. I am writing to express my strong support for the removal of parking mandates in Saskatoon, as proposed in the Housing Accelerator Fund. As a young professional, I believe this change is crucial for creating a more vibrant, affordable, and sustainable city.

A few Key points supporting the removal of parking mandates:

1. Encouraging Vibrant Commercial Areas:

Parking mandates hinder the creation of pedestrian-friendly commercial areas like Broadway. Instead, we see car-centric developments like Preston Crossing and Stonebridge, with often underutilized parking lots that discourage walkability. By removing these mandates, we can foster the development of lively, diverse commercial spaces that enhance our urban fabric.

2. Improving Affordability and Urban Design:

Mandatory parking significantly increases housing development costs, which are passed on to renters and buyers. Removing these mandates could improve housing affordability, especially for those who don't own cars or prefer not to. Saskatoon, with its flat terrain, has the potential to be one of Canada's most walkable and bikeable cities. However, mandatory parking contributes to the spread-out nature of our businesses and residences, hindering this potential.

3. Increasing Tax Revenue through Density:

Denser, more efficient land use could significantly boost our city's tax base. This additional revenue could support important projects like the downtown arena and library without burdening taxpayers with one-time property tax increases, as seen in Calgary. Increasing density acts as a safeguard against future tax hikes. For more information on the relationship between density and tax base, I recommend exploring the "Not Just Bikes" and "Strong Towns" YouTube channels.

4. Creating a More Walkable, Vibrant City:

Removing parking mandates encourages denser, more walkable neighborhoods. This improves quality of life, supports local businesses, and reduces car dependence. Cities like Calgary showcase the benefits with vibrant areas like 17th Avenue, Inglewood, and Kensington - bustling with shops, residents, and life. By eliminating mandatory parking and encouraging foot traffic, we can help small local businesses thrive in Saskatoon.

5. Environmental Benefits:

Reducing mandatory parking decreases impervious surfaces, mitigating urban heat island effects and preserving green spaces. Asphalt parking lots contribute to climate change by absorbing heat and exacerbating water runoff issues. The recent flooding in Toronto highlights the importance of proper water management. By not mandating parking, we allow new developments to be more environmentally friendly and reduce the strain on our sewage and waste treatment systems.

6. Flexibility for Developers and Businesses:

Removing mandates doesn't eliminate parking altogether. It allows developers and businesses to determine appropriate parking based on actual demand rather than arbitrary requirements. Edmonton's experience shows that removing mandates can still result in added parking spots where needed. This approach reduces government intervention while allowing parking decisions to be made at the local level, tailored to specific needs.

I understand that change can be challenging, but I firmly believe this is a critical step towards creating a more livable, sustainable, and economically vibrant Saskatoon. I urge you to support the removal of parking mandates as part of the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing Saskatoon continue to grow and evolve positively under your leadership(s).

Sincerely,

Paul Jones

Varsity View Resident

PS. I have attached an image of the "value per acre" for Kansas City for emphasis on the importance of density. More valuable properties can be taxed at the same rate, but benefit the city coffers immensely more, regardless of whether they're located in the middle of the prairies (like Kansas City). Without even knowing the layout of Kansas City, I'm sure it's not too hard to locate downtown, versus the spread out suburbs. Parking Lots do NOT benefit the city as much as residences, businesses and other productive assets.

Attachments:

- [kansasCityValuePerAcre.jpg](#) 114.26 KB

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

Value Per Acre

Kansas City, MO

