

From: David Clements <clements.djc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2025 6:24 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; clementd.djc@gmail.com
Subject: downtown parking

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The thoughts shared in this email not only represent myself but hundreds of people who have asked that I share their thoughts with all of you. People know that I have been involved in the community for a long time and have asked that I speak for them on the issues below.

It is also a lengthy email so that I can document my credentials with you.

Please understand that I love what has been done with the roundabouts on South Avenue and at 7th and Cass Streets. I believe in progress but I am also concerned about things that are not business friendly. I worked with every mayor of La Crosse from Pat Zielke to Mitch Reynolds.

Credentials:

- A hotel manager in La Crosse for more than ten years
- Food and Beverage Director of the La Crosse Center for two years
- Director of the La Crosse Center for seven years (yes, a City Department Head)
- Business owner and manager for 16 additional years
- Executive Director of Explore La Crosse (tourism) for eleven years
- Treasurer of Friends of Riverside Park Foundation

Myself & others raised the \$950,00 to build the bandshell in Riverside Park

The same group raised the \$350,000 to build the new bathrooms in Riverside Park

Myself and two others raised the \$1.2 million to build the pavilion at Forest Hills Golf Club

If you want a bench in Riverside Park, I am the community volunteer who coordinates this for the Parks Department. I am downtown many times a week for bandshell pavers and benches to coordinate these purchases.

- President & Founder of the Joe Was Just Joe Foundation, for 17 years doing suicide prevention work in the Tri-State Area
- A 41-year home owner in the City of La Crosse. As a City Department Head, I was required to be a City of La Crosse resident at that time. I question how many current Department Heads live in La Crosse right now. I know that many of them DO NOT live in the City.

I traveled into downtown La Crosse twice on Saturday, November 8. Once in the early afternoon and once at 5:30. I drove all around the downtown area checking on the use of the street parking. Both 3rd and 4th Streets were full of vehicles in the entire downtown area. This was a Saturday which means these were consumers and not people working.

The removal of parking from Cass Street to La Crosse Street on 3rd and 4th is a terrible idea and will have an absolutely negative impact on food, beverage and retail business in this area.

There is no logical reason to remove parking from these streets and if you have not spent time in this area reviewing the use of these parking spots you are not doing your job. I represent HUNDREDS of people who agree with these thoughts.

Since I have your attention, I would also point out that the city spent over \$42 million to upgrade one of the City's largest investments, the La Crosse Center. I am in downtown La Crosse multiple days a week and I can tell you in the last five years I have seen less than 25 people using these bike lanes.

It's ridiculous that these lanes impact the access to the La Crosse Center. I also question the legality of bike lanes going against traffic with the current design on 2nd Street.

The changes made to Cass Street from West Avenue to 7th Street are a joke. Fire trucks cannot make turns at any of these corners. Additionally, the forcing of sidewalks to the 28th Street area between Cass and Main Streets is an egregious waste of taxpayer dollars and the residents in this area were definitely opposed to their installation.

I am guessing most of you have driven in this area to view what was done to a neighborhood that doesn't want people walking so close to their homes that they can easily view into their living rooms. Plus, now they have sidewalks to shovel all winter long. You could keep the northside library open if this ridiculous change had not happened.

The City Planning Department is totally out of control.

We are the silent majority who continue to pay our property taxes but are constantly being ignored because we are not vocal. You need to know that I represent a large number of homeowners who believe the direction of this City is terrible and you have ignored us for far too long.

Removing parking from downtown streets is a terrible mistake! I would welcome your email at [clements.djc@gmail](mailto:clements.djc@gmail.com) or a phone call to my cell phone at 608-397-3336.

David J. Clements

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David J. Clements

Founder & President, Joe Was Just Joe Foundation

Co-Founder & Treasurer, Friends of Riverside Park Foundation

President, Bluffside Duffers Golf League

Board Member, Mental Health Alliance of La Crosse

Co-Founder & Bd. Member, Linked by Legacy Suicide Prevention Org.

Volunteer, La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

Citizen of both the United States of America and Luxembourg

I think of you in silence and often say your name. All we have are memories and pictures in frames.

You can support our efforts to shine a light on mental health and suicide issues by donating to the Joe Was Just Joe Foundation. Thank you!!!!