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From: Sam D <samueldeetz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:38 AM
To: ZZ Council Members; ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Common Council 12/12 Agenda Item 24-1323

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Dear Councilmembers,

I respectfully ask for your support of Agenda Item 24-1323. While it is not a perfect ordinance and involves trade-offs, it represents a significant improvement over the status quo. This proposal addresses critical challenges, including housing affordability, traffic congestion, environmental concerns, and the tax burden, and achieves these benefits with just one manageable downside.

This policy enjoys widespread support across the political spectrum and from diverse organizations, including labor unions, the AARP, the Sierra Club, housing advocates, economic development groups, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. It has been a recommendation of our own Comprehensive Plan, Housing Study, Climate Action Plan and more. Decades of research have shown that minimum parking requirements are counterproductive to our city's wellbeing. To make this policy truly successful however, we need to improve the management of on-street parking.

To address concerns raised about the ordinance, I suggest three additional actions:

1. Conduct a review of the ordinance's impact as part of the zoning code rewrite, incorporating any necessary adjustments.
2. Explore the creation of a residential parking permit program or similar measures to prevent overcrowding of on-street parking. Such a program could prioritize parking for existing housing while accommodating future development at a higher permit price point.
3. Consider requiring one additional ADA accessible parking space above the state requirements for large apartment buildings with twenty or more units.

Even without these additional steps, I believe this ordinance is a positive and necessary step forward, and I encourage your support. The upcoming zoning code rewrite allows us to have a pilot program in essence, knowing that if changes are necessary, we will be revisiting the zoning language soon anyway. Thank you for taking the time to research and consider this important issue.

Sincerely,
Samuel Deetz