



December 11, 2024

Dear members of the Common Council,

As members of the La Crosse Housing Advocacy Committee, led by Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region, we express our full support for Agenda Item #24-1323 to remove off-street parking requirements.

La Crosse is facing a housing crisis. Median home prices have increased 36% between 2019 and 2022, and nearly half of La Crosse's renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, limiting their ability to pay for other essentials like food, childcare, transportation, and medical costs.

Our community needs more housing—a lot more housing—to meet current demand. However, current construction costs and regulations are barriers to meeting this demand. As developers of and advocates for affordable housing in La Crosse, we are deeply familiar with the constraints that current parking restrictions put on housing development. Surface parking and garage spaces cost valuable time, money, and space. Future tenants and owners inherit those costs.

Developers, including those in the Housing Advocacy Committee, have expressed that this change does not signal the end of off-street parking. We still respond to market demand, and we are best positioned to know how much parking to build, rather than adhering to blanket minimum requirements.

Reducing parking minimums is a positive step toward achieving goals shared by many La Crosse residents and businesses: lower construction costs, boost active transportation, promote climate resilience, and bring more housing to our community.

Thank you to the Neighborhood Revitalization Commission for their work researching this issue and bringing the ordinance change forward. Thank you to all members of the Common Council for considering this issue.

Sincerely,

Kahya Fox
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Habitat for Humanity of the Greater La Crosse Region

Hetti Brown
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Julie McDermid
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