

Lehrer, Gary

G - General Public Comment

From: [Gary Lehrer](#)
To: [Melissa Boyer](#); [Chris Bausch](#); [Fred Strong](#); [John Hamon](#); [Steve Gregory](#); [Sharon Roden](#); [Ty Lewis](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's City Council Meeting to be inserted into the public record
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:19:36 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Julie Dixon of Dixon Resources is making highly questionable statements about the parking program in Paso Robles. She went to Seal Beach and told them we had a 44% increase in sales tax. If anything it was 14% and given inflation. Please check this over but I am confident that my reasoning is correct. Here are the real figures:

\$ 986,348.00 2018 sales tax revenue from downtown
1.21 value of 2018 dollar in 2023
\$1,193,481.08 2018 sales tax in constant dollar 2023 terms
\$1,360,470.00 2023 sales tax revenue in 2023 dollars
14 per cent increase adjusted for inflation, not 44%!

Here are the figures I've used.

Calendar Year	Downtown Core	All Other Citywide	Total Citywide
2018	986,348	8,359,892	9,346,240
2019	1,045,039	8,133,379	9,178,418
2020	859,683	7,775,912	8,635,595
2021	1,322,711	9,322,645	10,645,356
2022	1,452,307	10,054,996	11,507,303
2023	1,360,470	9,855,467	11,215,937

Here's the quote below in a news article:

"Dixon said that since they launched paid parking in Paso Robles, the downtown area has had a 44% increase in sales tax revenue. "That's specific to the area that's managed by parking versus the remainder of the city where they've actually had a decrease in sales tax."

<https://www.sunnews.org/council-discusses-paid-parking.../>"

It is obvious to me that a case can be made that you were sold the paid program under false pretenses. I've also heard from a reliable source who has studied the figures that the City is actually saying it is 38%, not the 44% stated in the article. At any rate, this is just one more reason to kill the parking program. One could actually argue that the increase of 14% is even that high because the real rate of inflation in the downtown area is greater than the nominal rate. So that figure is due to businesses having to raise prices to just survive. In conclusion it is obvious that the paid parking program is not the money maker that Dixon resources is claiming it to be.

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