

Becker, Linda

K5 - Public Comment

From: [Linda Becker](#)
To: [John Hamon](#); [Sharon Roden](#); [Chris Bausch](#); [Steve Gregory](#); [Fred Strong](#); [CityManager](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Parking Downtown
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 11:05:55 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear City Council, City Manager and City Clerk,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming agenda item pertaining to parking in downtown Paso Robles. Given that the proponents of the parking referendum were able to gather 2281 signatures in a matter of weeks it seems that parking is a hot button for voters residing within the city limits. It is clear from the attachments to the agenda for the May 7, 2024 City Council meeting the referendum petition failed to comply with details of state law.

It is both sad and unfortunate that the California elections code can be used to nitpick citizens attempt to make clear their desires to council members. It is sad when the minutia of law cannot be easily read and acted upon by every day citizens. Government needs to be streamlined more approachable, reachable and responsive to the will of citizens.

Given the volume of signatures obtained in a matter of only a few weeks, it is clear that many voters within the Paso Robles city limits are very dissatisfied with the pay to park program. Many businesses have expressed they have enjoyed an increase in sales during this period of free parking downtown. Keep in mind parking is free in nearby Atascadero.

Given the council's interest in gaining voter approval to increase sales tax in the upcoming November election, it is time to step back and reevaluate. I suspect, angry voters will not vote in favor of an increase in local sales tax as they are quite angry about paying to park downtown.

It is time to focus on creating a positive experience for customers and downtown business owners. Locals have begun returning to downtown to play in the park, shop, dine and watch a movie. Business have seen an increase in sales which means the city will benefit from increased sales tax. This time of free parking has been positive experience in our community.

It is time to take a different approach to improve the overall reputation of downtown and enhance customer satisfaction. Let's find a better way of managing parking in our downtown area and creating a vibrant and welcoming environment for community members, business owners, and visitors.

Let's create a vibrant and welcoming downtown for all.

Sincerely,
Linda Becker
Paso Robles