

Jan Coppola

From: Phil Bourquin
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 2:20 PM
To: Jan Coppola
Subject: FW: Request for changes in parking time limits

From: LibertyTheatre@aol.com [<mailto:LibertyTheatre@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 4:35 PM

To: Phil Bourquin

Subject: Request for changes in parking time limits

May 6, 2015

Mr. Phil Bourquin
Community Development Director
City of Camas
615 NE 4th Ave
Camas WA 98607

Re: Parking commission meeting, request for changes on downtown parking time limits.

Dear Phil:

Thanks for taking the time to stop by and discuss this issue with me. I am hoping based on that conversation and the details presented here that we can expedite some needed changes before the summer season arrives.

Once school is out the Liberty starts operating a full 7-day a week matinee schedule, with the theatre opening around the noon hour. Our customers are concerned about getting parking tickets because there are very few places where a visitor can park for longer than 2 hours during the weekday. Most movies run a minimum of two hours, many closer to the 2-1/2 hour mark.

This has been a problem for our customers ever since we took over the Liberty operation in 2011. We feel there are benefits to an extended parking limit in the downtown core that would not only benefit the Liberty but also our neighboring businesses.

While I was not here when the 2-hour limit was initiated, I do believe that there has been a significant change in the types of businesses that operate in the downtown area. The businesses we have today cater to people going to eat, the movies, shopping and personal services like spas and beauty salons. Visitors wishing to take advantage of more than one of these options in one visit could easily run out of time in a 2 hour limit. It is not in the business community's best interest to rush these people back to their cars, or not allow them enough time to enjoy all of what downtown has to offer. We are now a hospitality destination; and with that we need to provide parking that is adequate for our visitors to enjoy what we offer.

With this, I would like to propose that the time limit changes be moved to a minimum of 3 hours on Adams, Birch, Cedar, Dallas and Franklin between Third and Fifth Avenue and that all of Fifth Avenue from Adams to Garfield. This would still leave the present 2-hour parking limit along Fourth Avenue in hopes that the main street would have faster turnover for in-and-out visitors but allow accessible parking for those that need to visit downtown for a longer period of time. Keep in mind, the longer our visitors are here, they are likely spending

more money with our local merchants rather than at the mall or big box stores which offer acres of unlimited free parking.

I would further like to address the parking signage downtown. The current signage shows enforcement hours from 9 AM to 6 PM and doesn't state what days of the week this is enforced. Many of our customers ask us about those signs on the weekend. I feel it is imperative that the signage needs to be brought up to date to reflect the current enforcement, and hopefully the new time limits.

I respectfully request that the city officials and the parking commission expedite the consideration of this request that is bound to have benefits for all downtown merchants this summer.

Sincerely yours,

Rand Thornsley
Managing Director
Liberty Theatre of Camas and Washougal
360.844-5103