To: City Council

From: Conservation Board

Date: April 2, 2013

Re: Downtown Parking Amendment: ZA-13-06

The Conservation Board supports the proposed elimination of minimum parking requirements in the downtown parking district.

The recent downtown and waterfront study showed, like others before it, that downtown parking is never fully utilized, that 27 acres of downtown land is covered by surface parking and another 8 acres by parking structures, and that 35% of spaces are vacant during peak periods. People parking downtown often use shared parking spaces and visit several destinations without moving their car, and there is a persistent shortage of housing downtown. Developers have cited the parking requirements as limiting, the Board has consistently supported applicants' requests for parking waivers, and believes developers are motivated to provide sufficient parking without a City requirement. Therefore the Conservation Board supports the proposed elimination of minimum parking requirements in the downtown parking district. Further the Board recommends the City make better use of existing parking through public and private shared parking facilities and live information systems.