

February 11, 2014

To the members of the Burlington City Council-

I am writing in support of the amendment to eliminate parking requirements within the Downtown Parking District. As a long-time citizen of Burlington, I believe in a walk-able and pedestrian-friendly Downtown, as this is one of the key characteristics of the quality of life in the Queen City. This amendment will help preserve our local character and urban fabric by eliminating the mandate that projects build more parking than is necessary. This amendment will encourage more productive and valuable use of limited land in our downtown, thereby improving the tax-base, and encouraging new infill development at the core of our city.

Additionally, this amendment will help facilitate additional housing development that can take advantage of current vacancy downtown. This amendment also makes new development less complicated and more affordable by providing much greater flexibility to how new development accommodates it’s demand for parking and transportation

This is important if Burlington is to regain some measure of affordability as it grows over time.

This amendment is about increasing choice and flexibility, and does not mean that no more parking will be built in our downtown - either by private developers or the City. Instead the creation of more parking should be driven by how we manage the actual parking supply and demand. The amendment is also not about giving up an important public contribution made by new development. Instead it is about managing our assets in a smarter way and getting better development in our downtown that helps us to achieve our larger community and economic development objectives.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Yves Bradley-Vice President, Commercial Brokerage

Chair, Burlington Planning Commission