

Hand Delivered to the City of Everett

Mayor Ray Stephanson
Council Member Paul Roberts
Council Member Mark Olson
Council Member Arlan Hatloe
Council Member Ron Gipson
Council Member Drew Nielsen
Council Member Brenda Stonecipher
Council Member Shannon Affholter

C/O City of Everett
2930 Wetmore Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

Re: Downtown Revitalization & Parking

Dear Mayor Stephanson & Council Members:

We are a group of downtown stakeholders who have been active in revitalizing Everett's urban core. Many of us have participated in the Local Improvement District (LID) that paid for the Everpark Garage, and continue to support downtown by participating financially in the Business Improvement Area (BIA). We believe a viable parking strategy is essential for the ongoing redevelopment and success of Everett's city center.

We have reviewed the findings from the City of Everett's recent parking study completed by Barney & Worth and request that you pursue the following recommendations:

- Improve parking enforcement and review fines for parking infractions to ensure on-street parking spaces are available for retail and business customers.
- Standardize parking time limits to 90 minutes to ensure parking is customer-friendly and easily enforceable. Allocate some 15 minute parking spaces near banks and other retail locations where customers need to make quick transactions.
- Create a downtown parking authority to help manage parking. Dedicate revenues, including parking fines, to provide streetscape enhancements and expand parking options downtown.
- Begin planning for a new public parking garage to be constructed within three to five years to replace lost spaces from current and future development.

While we have confidence that the City of Everett will swiftly adopt measures to improve management of existing parking resources, we are concerned that the City has not adequately planned for new public parking facilities that will be needed to support future growth. The following is a list of parking spaces that will be lost to development:

Project Address:	Project Description:	Number of Spaces:
2531 Colby Avenue	Banner Bank Branch	40
2602 Colby Avenue	Colby Tower	32
2720 Hoyt Avenue	Library Place	120
2732 Wetmore Avenue	Former KeyBank Site	27
2831 Wetmore Building	Skotdal Commercial Bldg	66
2915 Hoyt Avenue	ArtSpace Project	118
3002 Colby Avenue	Allen-Buick Site	56
Total Lost Parking Spaces:		459

We believe the City of Everett has a responsibility to utilize the existing KeyBank site to provide public parking that will be needed in the next three to five years. Given its proximity to existing retail, office and recreational amenities, this site is a logical choice for a new underground parking structure. Moreover, in conjunction with the parking facility, a new public space can be constructed at this site to complement the existing Performing Arts Center and surrounding area.

While a vibrant cultural district can play an important role in a revitalized urban center, it cannot come at the expense of the retail and professional service businesses who are the key drivers of job growth and essential tax revenues. Additionally, we believe there is no compelling argument for creating a new children's theatre at the existing KeyBank site when other facilities now exist that may be utilized for this purpose, including the Historic Everett Theatre, Performing Arts Center, Everett Civic Auditorium, Everett High School Theatre, or the Snohomish County PUD Theatre.

As stakeholders who are invested in Everett's urban core and who are committed to fulfilling the vision of the Downtown Plan, we urge you to make parking management and development of new parking facilities an integral part of the City's revitalization strategy. Furthermore, as investors in the Everpark Garage, we endorse the idea of using the revenues and reserve funds from this facility to help create streetscape enhancements and new parking options in the downtown area.

Sincerely,

A List of Signatories Is Attached

Downtown Everett Stakeholders

Enclosures:

(1) Herald Article, Dated May 13, 2008, "Without \$75,000, Everett Theatre Faces Closure"

"The [Historic Everett] Theatre ... also serves as a much-needed venue for children's workshops"

(2) Herald Article, Dated May 19, 2008, "Everett Parking Laws Lax, City Told"

"The consultant anticipates the combination of downtown growth and the loss of spaces from development will require a new garage in three to five years."