
Ordinance 260219 - Parking changes

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Good morning, Mayor Pro Tem and NPD Committee Members,

As the NPD Committee prepares to hear additional input on proposed changes to the parking code, I'd like to propose the use of a working group to refine the language in a more collaborative environment. The hearing process meets the legal and procedural standards of the legislative process, however, it often falls short of achieving broad and representative participation and limits open dialog between interested parties.

The process of reaching consensus and compromise should not fall solely on City staff or committee members and is not possible through independent statements or written testimony. Working groups have produced significant policy changes in recent years, including the 2023 Short Term Rental program amendments and the Infill Residential Zoning code. In both examples, there was little opposition to the intent of the ordinances, however, the final language and implementation reflected broad input and real-life examples that built consensus and reduced unintended consequences. Ultimately, both received support from traditionally opposing factions based on the perceived and real fairness of the working group environment.

It is also important to acknowledge that in-person testimony on ordinance 260219, which often has the most direct impact on the legislative process, came from attendees who were all able-bodied, almost exclusively white, and from upper middle-class and higher socio-economic groups. Additionally, there continues to be a lack of understanding or awareness in many neighborhoods that would benefit from more targeted engagement.

There is little outright opposition to the intent of ordinance 260219, however, the testimony provided to date reflects a gap in how, where, and when changes would be implemented. I urge you to continue the dialog on this ordinance and broaden the process to develop and implement sustainable, holistic changes.

Thank-you,

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