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October 4, 2012

City Council President John Michitson  
And Members of the Haverhill City Council

**RE: Proposed parking changes**

Dear Mr. President and members of the City Council:

This week, the parking commission met and recommended a number of fairly minor changes in the parking ordinance. I will be submitting those to the City Council. I apologize that we have not had the opportunity to put them in ordinance form prior to the Thursday 11 AM, early Council deadline this week. The ordinances will be ready on Friday. I would appreciate it if the Council would consider allowing me to submit those under a suspension of the rules. As the Council knows, the ordinances must stay on file for two (2) weeks.

The proposed amendments would all amend the parking map to reallocate some of the permit and multiuse spaces. Under our existing ordinance all of the spaces are mapped out. Every time we need to change the use of one of the spaces, we are required to have a parking commission meeting, submit a proposed change to the City Council and then have the proposed change sit on file for two (2) weeks.

The proposed amendments would do the following:

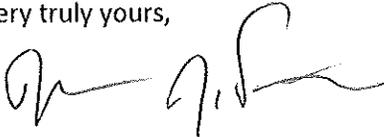
1. We would change 10 or 15 spaces in the lot across the street from Maria's Restaurant from pay by space to multi use permit or paid by space. All of our data and anecdotal evidence indicates that that lot is now largely empty. We have received a number of requests from employees and residents to add more spaces in the area;
2. We would take approximately 16 spaces in the lower parking deck on Merrimack Street in the first row of the parking garage and convert those from multiuse to pay by space only. We would move those permit spaces to the east side of the upper deck where our utilization data shows is only about 30% used even on the busiest days. We have received a number of requests from Merrimack Street restaurants asking us to create some more customer only spaces. It was always the intention of the parking plan that the first row in the garage be customer spaces;
3. We would convert the loading zone on Washington Street to "15 min. or loading zone" in order to accommodate requests from Andino's to accommodate their delivery drivers and their customers who come for quick pizza pickup. Currently the spot is a loading zone but is largely unused.

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As the Council knows, we previously submitted an ordinance allowing the parking commission to be able to reallocate permit and multiuse spaces without having to go back to the City Council. If that ordinance passes, it would not be necessary for us to go to the Council with these proposed changes. The ordinance, which comes before you on October 16th for a vote, would allow the parking commission to be able to have some more flexibility to reallocate spaces from permit, pay by space or multiuse as the need arises. All decisions concerning rates would still go to the City Council. The loading zone on Washington Street would require Council approval even if the other ordinances passed.

Our parking director, Michael Stankovich, will be before the City Council to talk about this in some more detail.

Very truly yours,



James J. Fiorentini, Mayor

JJF/lk

Cc: Michael Stankovich  
Members of the parking commission

IN CITY COUNCIL: October 11 2012  
POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 16 2012

Attest:

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City Clerk