

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS LORIGO, RATH, MILLS & DIXON

Re: Support for Reconsideration of Rate Increases for Parking in the City of Buffalo

WHEREAS, there has been significant public and private investment in downtown Buffalo and the surrounding area including Canalside and the medical corridor to stimulate and encourage resurgence and redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, these efforts along with the efforts of state economic and federal tax reform have had a positive impact on the economic vitality of the downtown area, leading to the establishment of new restaurants, hotels, and other businesses; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have helped to expand the downtown workforce whose employees not only work the traditional 9 to 5 Monday through Friday work week, but work late evenings and weekends with many of these workers employed at nearly minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, convenient, affordable, and safe parking is essential for not only these workers, but for all workers, patrons, and visitors to the city; and

WHEREAS, at a session of the Buffalo Common Council held December 26, 2018 an amendment to Chapter 479 Traffic Ordinance of the Code of the City of Buffalo was unanimously approved to increase rates at parking meters, in some cases as much as \$2.00 per hour, the elimination of free street parking on weekday evenings and Saturdays by expanding paid parking space times from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and the addition of more than 700 new revenue-generating parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, these changes and parking meter rates are more onerous than many markets of similar size or medium income, including Erie, Pa.; Rochester, NY.; Des Moines, Ia.; Kansas City, Mo.; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes to the parking policy and increases in rates are counter intuitive to the efforts being undertaken to increase and stimulate the economic position of Buffalo's downtown; and

WHEREAS, these changes deserve more input from the public, proprietors and business owners and increased sensitivity to public opinion, thankfully the Common Council has moved to reconsider this decision; and

WHEREAS, the intent of these policy changes have been described as an attempt to direct downtown workers to park at existing parking garages however recent dialogue with the operators of the Buffalo Civic Auto Ramps and other city parking operators indicate a several year waiting list to purchase monthly parking permits with many of these facilities filled completely daily, thereby limiting access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

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RESOLVED, that this Honorable body hereby supports the Common Council's decision to delay the implementation of these policy changes and rate increases and allow for more public input, and to study the potential consequences of these policy changes before the policy is fully implemented; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to City of Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown, Buffalo Common Council President Darius G. Pridgen, Buffalo Common Council Members David A. Rivera, Christopher Scanlon, Joel P. Feroletto, Richard A. Fontana, David A. Franczyk, Joseph Golombek Jr, Ulysees O. Wingo Sr, Rasheed Wyatt, City of Buffalo Parking Commissioner Kevin Helfer, City of Buffalo Comptroller, and any party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None