

Position Paper on Street Parking

Background:

Over the last several years, there have been several attempts to regulate parking on the streets in the City of Ward. While there has been some good discussion, eventually it comes around to banning parking on all city streets.

In 2011, and once again in 2014, while I was a City Council Member, I successfully argued against a parking ban and the legislation did not pass.

Over the last several months, the current City Council has taken on this issue once again. And, once again, they are considering passing an ordinance banning parking on all city streets.

My Position:

I am AGAINST a total ban on street parking.

My Reasoning:

I acknowledge that we do have a parking problem in some parts of the city. I acknowledge there are issues with emergency vehicle and school busses getting through some streets, on occasion.

While parking on the city streets may not be an absolute right, it is a privilege, much like driving a car in the first place.

I believe a total ban on street parking is the 'easy way out'...for your government, but not for you. A "shotgun effect" to a problem is never good.

I believe a total ban on parking is an overreach of your government. I am a true Republican at heart and believe less government interference in your personal life is better.

I also believe that when a government starts banning something, it may open the door to them banning something else. As an example, in 2007 while I was a sitting Council Member, an ordinance was brought before us to ban Pit Bulls in the city.

Arguing against the matter, citing the fact we already have a vicious dog ordinance in place, I successfully blocked the passage of that ordinance.

As Mayor:

I will work on your behalf to ensure any and all legislation passed by my Administration is necessary and needed. I will make sure that it has been properly vetted and discussed and our citizens have been given ample opportunity to voice their opinion on the subject.

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