



February 9, 2018

City Council Members:

Please consider this letter encouraging the city to institute a process by which it can grant (rent) seasonal use of on-street parking spaces to businesses that abut those spaces for a beneficial use.

Lavelle's Taphouse is a member of the Downtown Association and Arlette Lavelle asked the Downtown Association to consider her idea. This letter of support therefore comes as support for a business initiative with a mind to what it could do for the common good downtown.

Street level activity is the common good that could come of seasonally renting on-street parking spaces to businesses that abut those spaces. Regular activity at the street level signals to all that a downtown is vibrant. A good place to go, go again, stay and invest. Making city right-of-way (on-street parking spaces) available to rent has its potential pitfalls. Without making light of any protests or other issues, please allow some observations.

- The site of this request is on a block with a decent quantity of on-street parking with a great deal of off-street parking available in the parking garage. Additionally, there are few businesses on the block which also require parking. In sum, parking in general is not at a premium on this block. (Otherwise, Lavelle's Taphouse might not venture such an idea.)
- Traffic speeds are 20 MPH on this block and the site is roughly 150' from a traffic signal in both directions. Many vehicles may not even reach those speeds. There is a philosophy that smiles on daily, ubiquitous "distractions" being part and parcel of revitalization. The danger from vehicles seems slight with adequate physical separation.
- Every year the Downtown Association of Fairbanks Community Services lays claim to a great deal of city right of way for the Midnight Sun Festival via a special event permit. The DAFCS must have appropriate and sufficient insurance for such an event permit, and the permit requires that DAFCS assume all liability for what happens on city property by signing a notarized Event Waiver of Liability.

This may be a unique request that no other business would make, either due to the nature of their business, the parking picture, etc. But in the belief that more street level activity is a positive for downtown, we hope the city will make it possible for a business to seasonally rent on-street parking spaces that abut said business for a beneficial use.

Sincerely,

David van den Berg
Executive Director

