

February 9, 2018

Mr. Robert Schroer, Supt. Of Parking Enforcement  
300 West Sixth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

In re: parking enforcement

Dear Mr. Schroer:

On behalf of the Over-the-Rhine Community Council, I want to thank you for supplying the itemized summary of parking enforcement for the month of October, 2017. This information has been carefully reviewed and discussed by OTRCC's Parking & Transportation Committee. The committee is very impressed by the fact that 9000 citations were issued city-wide that month, and approximately 20% of those were for parking violations in OTR.

After carefully reviewing and discussing the data, the Parking & Transportation Committee makes the following observations and urges your staff to make some adjustments in its priorities:

1. The fundamental purpose of having parking meters in commercial areas is to encourage a frequent turnover of parked cars at the meters. Frequent turnover deters people from parking for extended periods and frees up parking spaces for would-be customers of retail outlets, restaurants, and bars. Frequent turnover is obviously less important early on weekdays when parking demand is less. Yet, members of our committee have observed your staff aggressively issuing citations early on weekday mornings during times of minimal parking demand, particularly on Main Street. This actually discourages would-be customers from patronizing OTR establishments.
2. Conversely, the data which you provided seems to back up anecdotal evidence that enforcement on residential streets in OTR is not aggressive enough. It does not seem that your staff patrols these areas, but instead seems only to respond to complaints. The types of repeat violations which we have observed most frequently include:
  - Parking in "no parking" zones
  - Parking too close to intersections making it difficult for motorists to make turns, and making it difficult to see approaching cross traffic
  - Parking too close to and even in front of fire hydrants
  - Vehicles left parked in the same spot for weeks on end

We encourage you to re-examine your priorities and adjust those priorities to the needs of the community.

Lastly, we continue to believe that a residential parking permit system is needed for most areas of OTR. And, rather than establish a single permit system for all of OTR, we believe that

any system of residential parking permits should be tailored to meet the needs of each sector of OTR as determined by the specific problems typically encountered in each subarea. OTRCC would be happy to work with you in identifying subareas and terms which would improve the parking situation in each.

Sincerely,