June 25, 2018

Mr. Daniel Fortinberry

Parking Facilities Division Manager

Department of Community and Economic Development
Two Centennial Plaza

805 Central Avenue, Suite 700

Cincinnati, OH 45202

RE: Proposed Residential Permit Parking Program (RPPP)

Dear Mr. Fortinberry, Ms. Florea, Mr. Osborne, and Mr. Rocco,

The members of The Over-the-Rhine Community Council (OTRCC) wish to thank you and your colleagues for presenting your proposal to the Parking and Transportation Committee on May 17. Many OTR residents, including the members of OTRCC, are highly pleased an RPP Program is being developed. We appreciate your work and talents, even more so due to the underlying complexities of creating an effective permit program in an urban, densely-built, and historic part of the neighborhood.

Therefore, the Over-the-Rhine Community Council would like to invite you to present the proposed RPP Program to our members on Monday, July 23. I will follow-up with you about arrangements soon.

Because aspects of the proposed RPP Program are still being reviewed and discussed, the OTRCC wishes to share its members’ preferences and make the following recommendations for your consideration.

1. Permit Fee

The fee for each residential-parking permit should be $30 per annum or $15 semi-annum. We feel strongly that the cost should be the same for all permit holders and the cost should not be greater than the city charges in its existing RPP districts.

The only exemptions to the regular Fee Schedule should be those set forth in CMC Title V, Section 514-1, Special Parking Permits for Veterans, and Section 514-13 (a) (b).

1. Hours of Enforcement

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all year (24/7/365).

1. Visitor Passes

Residents of each housing unit should be entitled to purchase one (1) Visitor Pass for $30 and Temporary Visitor Passes for $5 as needed.

1. Persons entitled to buy permits for this RPP Area

Only those persons who live on the blocks designated as part of the RPP Program should be lawfully entitled to buy a residential permit. Thus, for example, a person who lives on Mulberry Street or Central Parkway would not be lawfully entitled to purchase a permit to park his or her car on any block designated as part of this particular RPP Area.

Furthermore, this particular RPP Area should be color-coded so as to distinguish it from other RPP Areas in the city. By implementing a color-coded scheme, residents’ lawfully parked cars can be distinguished from residents whose cars have RPP windshield stickers tied to other RPP Areas, e.g., East OTR / Pendleton in addition to other RPP Areas in the city.

1. Number of Residential Permits per RPP Program or Area

No cap should be imposed on the RPP Area. However, each housing unit should be capped at two (2) residential permits; one (1) Guest Pass; and, Temporary Permits as needed.

1. Painted Parking Spaces

To create the discrete spaces designated Flexible Meter-and-RPP, a sideways T painted on the road bed near the line dividing the parking- and moving lanes would be deemed appropriate.

1. Street Sweeping

Due to severely limited curbside space during overnight hours, street sweeping is all but impossible. We urge street sweeping be changed to a few hours during the late morning of a week day (Mon-Fri) when fewer cars need to be parked curbside. Changing street sweeping to a few hours during the day would allow residents to park on one side of the street, thereby satisfying the conditions needed to sweep each block.

1. Adding more Parking Meters

Until an RPP Program is approved, no additional meters should be installed in Over-the-Rhine.

1. Community Engagement

The City should act now to start making arrangements for meaningful community forums. Members of the Over-the-Rhine Community Council, along with a number of other community-based groups, will help the City undertake meaningful engagement. We believe Music Hall, owned by the City, would be a good public place to conduct forums.

1. The matter of Flexible Meter-and-RPP Spaces

For clarity and shared understanding, this component requires more discussion. For example, the necessarily disparate hours of enforcement for metered parking versus RPP parking may hold inherent conflicts and cause misunderstandings. In addition, signage must be both clear and understandable.

1. Boundaries of the proposed RPP Area

For good and valid reasons, a small number of blocks should be added to the current proposal. In the near future, a list of those blocks will be provided for your consideration.

We believe each recommendation is reasonable and prudent, and we hope to continue to work closely with you and your colleagues.

As we go forward, the members of the Parking and Transportation Committee are available to meet with you again to discuss any of these recommendations or any which you may wish to discuss.

We appreciate having this initiative before us including its challenges. We are grateful for your proposal and having this opportunity to make the neighborhood better.

Sincerely,

Maurice Wagoner

President, Over-the-Rhine Community Council