

From: Peter Duffy Bennett
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:54 AM
To: CouncilMeeting <CouncilMeeting@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Agenda Item 5.4 Comment

Hello,

I have a comment on the "Retroactive Approval of Suspended Parking Operations and Amendments to Various Parking Agreements and Master Parking Rate Schedule."

I am a customer at downtown businesses. I strongly support the end of the parking validation program, and I hope this change is made permanent. The cost of this program is passed along to customers through increased prices. Since businesses don't offer a discount for non-drivers, this is essentially a transfer of wealth from non-drivers to drivers.

As an example, I used to visit a downtown climbing gym a few times a week, along with many regulars. All memberships fees were the same, whether you used the parking validation or not. The business must pay 30 cents per validation. The cost of these validations certainly comes from the membership fees. Since I meet friends there a few times a week, this is about \$2-3 a month that the gym spends on each driver, a benefit I have no ability to use, and yet still pay for. This is different from a yoga class or gym machine, which not all members use, but they may use. My membership could be a few dollars cheaper if they would simply offer two membership levels, one without validation. They refuse to do this, and do not offer to pay 30 cents for transit fare instead. It seems backwards that they only transfer wealth to drivers from non-drivers, since non-drivers are typically lower income. This is also a financial reward to drive, which is encouraging people to choose the more destructive mode of transportation to lives and neighborhoods.

Can you confirm that the council will see my comment later today?

Thank you,
Peter Bennett