

From: Sachi Komai [mailto:srkomai@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 10:50 AM
To: Mary Carbine
Subject: GSSBA email re taxis

The Greater State Street Business Association opposes the proposed amendment to Section 12.915(8) regarding taxicabs waiting for passengers on State Street and the newly-designated taxi stands located on side streets.

We have two primary concerns: the ease of cab use during the late night hours and the removal of needed parking spaces during the daytime.

Because State Street is Madison's premier nighttime entertainment district it needs to remain user-friendly. Visitors and tourists expect to step out onto the curb and hail a cab after leaving a restaurant or tavern. They don't know the numbers for local cab companies, and bartenders can't be expected to call and arrange rides for every patron leaving the pub.

The lack of cabs is a mobility issue for our customers, some of whom rely on their door-to-door service. A regular customer recently informed one of our board members that she had heard cabs were no longer allowed on State Street and would therefore no longer be able to dine at her favorite restaurant.

We know of no incidents of taxicabs blocking emergency vehicles or interfering with normal traffic on State Street so business owners are puzzled as to why their presence is now unwelcome.

The newly-designated taxi stands have replaced precious street parking spots. If the city is adamant about maintaining the stands, we strongly suggest that you convert the spaces into stands only after midnight, when shoppers, diners and Overture attendees have all gone home. Business owners have not seen any taxicabs use the stands during normal shopping hours, while their customers are forced to find parking elsewhere, instead of right in front of their shop. Many customers who only come downtown when they know they will get free parking are perturbed to find these spots now reserved for nonexistent cabs. We believe this simple time change will ease any annoyance that customers and business owners have expressed with the city's rules.

Sachi Komai
GSSBA President