

**McGuigan, Patrick**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposed Increase in Residential Parking Fees

**From:** Gillian Nevers [mailto:neversgillian@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, May 21, 2018 8:30 PM

**To:** Eskrich, Sara <district13@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Zellers, Ledell <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Kamp, Charles <ckamp@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Proposed Increase in Residential Parking Fees

To Ald. Sara Eskrich, Ald. Ledell Zellers and members of the Transit and Parking Commission:

We are writing to strongly object to the proposed increase in residential parking fees. As long-term residents of Madison, property owners (Gillian purchased our home on Jefferson Street in 1979), and retirees on fixed incomes, we are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the expenses of living in our neighborhood. We are happy that should we choose to sell our home, a home that we could no longer afford to buy, that we should be able to do so with great profit. However, **we do not want to sell out home**. We want to remain in the neighborhood that still retains some of the economic diversity that drew us to it in the first place. But, that economic diversity is continually at risk, as more and more people are paying a million dollars plus for homes, in the Vilas neighborhood. In addition, the increases in property values has resulted in huge increases in property taxes for people like us. It may be good for the city, but it's not good for long-term residents. Our property tax increased by 17 percent this year. Now, another tax increase, disguised as a fee increase, is being proposed. A \$14 a year increase may not seem like much, but it adds up. Especially, since taxes, utilities and the other services and the many costs of maintaining an old home also keep increasing.

We read that the reason for the increase is to cover the cost of enforcing the program, but don't know if other options have been considered. For example, checking permits must be done by the person driving around and giving tickets for people parked illegally or over the posted time. We hope that the increase in residential parking fees is not meant to cover the cost of issuing tickets, as ticket fines should be enough to cover that cost. (We live near Edgewood and we observe, on a daily bases, how many cars are parked illegally). Those who are illegally parked receive a paper ticket on the windshield of their cars. In this day and age, it is certainly possible to link the license plate to an address and have an electronically printed ticket mailed to the owner's address, which would cut down on the parker monitor's time. Has that been considered? As for the cost of managing the program, which we assume is processing fees and printing permits every year. One way these costs could be reduced would be to introduce a one-time fee for a number of years or, better yet, for as long as a person stays in his or her residence. If that were done, time would be freed up to process new permits.

What is of deepest concern to us is that we are watching our once economically diverse neighborhood changing into one where only people earning a way above average income can live. Most Madison neighborhoods have, or used to have, a wonderful mix of old and young, professional and working class, high income and lower income people. That's what's made them places people want to live. If the city prices people out of these neighborhoods, be it by rapid and high tax increases or steady fee increases, neighborhoods will become mono-communities. They will loose their unique flavors. And, what many urban areas that have welcomed new, high tax bases (think San Francisco, Portland, Denver) have found, there is no one left, within the city limits, to provide the services (teachers, police officers, firemen, those living in these now wealthy areas require.

Respectfully,

Gillian and Dan Nevers