

November 20, 2019

Mayor and City Council
City of Columbia
701 East Broadway
P.O. Box 6015
Columbia, MO 65205

Dear Mayor Treece and City Council Members:

The City of Columbia Parking Advisory Commission (PAC) would like to offer support for ordinance changes relating to the enforcement of parking fees annually on December 24th. The PAC believes a free parking day, similar to what is currently observed on Veteran's day, would benefit the businesses and gathering places that occupy the area.

December 24th is one of the larger in-person shopping days with the lowest time actually spent in-store by the customer. Several of the churches hold special services and draw a lot of their congregations into downtown. It is also a day which a lot of people are off work and find time to enjoy lunch or dinner at one of the many restaurants with family and friends.

We want all of community that might not visit this area on a weekday at these times to feel welcome, comfortable and safe to enjoy our beautiful downtown and its amazing local business community. Removing parking fees gives all of these organizations and opportunity to market and encourage their patrons to spend more time enjoying the heart of our city and hopefully make them comfortable to return more often in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Parking Advisory Commission,
Mike McClung, Chair.