

070383

Hello my name is Tom Masterson. Thank you for your time. It is appreciated.

I spoke before this committee at the April 2007 meeting. As a short review I suggested adding Customer Parking Only to the current 2 hour parking restrictions in all of the downtown area and presented reasons why.

Since the April meeting the Police Department did a "Staff Study".

I would like to comment on the study. I do not enjoy disagreeing or arguing with the Police Department. I feel they do an excellent job.

To clarify the study states in #1

"Some businessowners have proposed that the majority of the Two-Hour Parking areas be redesignated as "Customer Parking Only".

We are asking that Customer Parking Only be added to all 2 hour parking spots with the time limitation still applying.

In #4 the study states

"The Department began regular observational patrols on April 16th to assess the reality of the parking situations".

After I spoke on April 2nd the Department started marking tires and ticketing vehicles. Merchants had not seen tires marked in months. When tires are marked and tickets are issued parking improves. The study confirms what everyone knows when there is enforcement there is no problem. The study started April 16th and documented that enforcement works. On April 2nd I mentioned there were 11 parking violations in 22 spots on Jan. 23, 2007 and 15 parking violations in 22 spots on Jan. 24, 2007. These violations would never had occurred had there been enforcement. This was not the case during the study because there was enforcement. I have not seen a tire marked or ticket since the beginning of June and you see the violations rising. I do not blame the Police Department. They only have so much staff, an awful lot to do and have to attend to many things without notice.

The Police Department even states they cannot enforce on a regular basis. #3 in the study states:

"The Policy Department can not devote a regular amount of structured time marking cars and writing tickets for motorists violating the two hour rule" and further states in #4 "It is without question that enforcing two hour parking violations is time consuming and difficult" & "Marking tires and remembering cars were deemed difficult in practice" & "Due to the many duties of the CSO's blocking time off for downtown parking enforcement is almost an impossible task".

This has always been the case and why "Customer Parking Only" makes sense.

The study states

"Changing the restrictions to "Customer Only" addresses only one issue: known employees and owners parking in front of businesses. While that dilemma would be fixed (note fixed) at least theoretically the problem of business owners making pick ups, dropping off equipment, distributing supplies and even patronizing other businesses may create resentment among that group".

First, owners making pick ups, dropping off equipment and distributing supplies has never been stated as a problem. All of these actions are 5 minute tasks. I believe the CSOs would have no problem determining this to be the case.

2nd, patronizing other businesses – if the owners and employees were parked where they are supposed to be parked they would then be walking past the other businesses and this is not an issue.

My daughter works in Downtown Wheaton and doesn't have a problem with this issue. Third – "may create resentment" – you don't have to worry about creating resentment. There is already plenty of resentment. I already mentioned this on April 2nd. People who have invested \$50,000 to \$200,000 in a business look out their windows and see non-customers parked in spots intended for customers. You have copies of their letters. As mentioned in April these are also the types of businesses Lombard is trying to attract. Lastly #4 states

"Also, many of the downtown business owners apparently are not in favor of this change". Many – how many? and who? Those that are in favor of Customer Parking Only have put it in writing but those opposed are unidentified. Why are they opposed? How can you have this statement in a study with no back up, reasons or details. I think you will find many, is not many, who, is who has in the past violated the parking ordinance and the reason to be they don't want to park in the Village lot 1/2 to 1 1/2 blocks away. The Village spent \$825,792 on this parking lot (2000-2002). One of the reasons was so business owners and their employees would have a place to park and the street parking would be available to customers like in Glen Ellyn and Wheaton (permit is free, application enclosed).

As I stated on April 2nd Glen Ellyn and Wheaton have a time limit and Customer Parking Only in the downtowns. Both towns keep a list of non-customers (business owners and employees, etc.).

Both towns did not always have Customer Parking Only. But since going to it both say it works good.

Both towns have downtowns 4 to 6 times the size of Lombard's. I have heard it said that enforcing Customer Parking Only is too complex. I refuse to believe the Departments of Glen Ellyn and Wheaton are more capable than Lombard. The list of violators would only be about 20 to 30 plates not that hard to handle. Handling a list of 20 to 30 plates has to be easier than what the Department's own study describes as difficult and impossible. In this age of computers the list could be kept in one document.

I started on the Customer Parking Only after hearing merchants complain last December. Non-customers have been a problem a long time as well as consistent enforcement.

I also know the Department can only do so much so why call them and complain when they don't have the staff to assign to the problem, look for another solution.

As shown by the study if people think there will be consequences they will modify their behavior. Nov. 06 to March 07 no enforcement many violations. April to May, enforcement few violations. But as the Department states they cannot commit to consistent long term enforcement so the problem will come back. This cycle has been going on for years and the violators know it. Is this fair to merchants who have invested \$50,000 to \$200,000 in a retail business? Why not give these merchants a way to help the problem? Customer Parking Only does this. Glen Ellyn and Wheaton both have said merchants are one source that reports violators. (I submitted the warning letter Wheaton Police gives to suspected violators).

I have yet to hear a reason why any downtown business objects to Customer Parking Only, even the study came up with no reasons from a business. After the Village spends \$825,792 on a parking lot for business owners and employees to use so street parking can be used by customers shouldn't the parking ordinance support the spending.

I ask that you support Customer Parking Only in downtown Lombard for the benefit of the merchants that have invested in Lombard and their customers.

Thomas Masterson

From: "Bill Brix" <billybrix1@gmail.com>
To: <tom@tjmco.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 04, 2007 10:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: review of downtown prking ordinances

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill Brix** <billybrix1@gmail.com>
Date: Aug 4, 2007 8:51 AM
Subject: review of downtown prking ordinances
To: obrien@villageoflombard.org
Cc: grong@villageoflombard.org

Mr. Obrien,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend Monday's meeting. As owner/operator of Brix Wood Fired Pizza I spend 60 hours a week at my business...and I love every minute of it!

I would like to voice my opinion on the parking issues that confront our downtown businesses. At my location I have a birds eye view of dead center downtown. For the past year I have seen total disregard of the current 2 hour limit on parking. Everyday I can point to many violators, commuters and business owners alike, that have no regard or fear of accountability.

With 65% of my business being "pick up" or "carry out" I need spaces for my customers to park. Not to mention customers that may drive by and see Brix but can't find a spot on St. Charles Road to park.

As a Lombard business owner I am definitely for "Customer Only Parking".

Best Regards,

Bill Wilson
Owner/Operator
Brix Wood Fired Pizza

Thomas Masterson

From: <GronG@villageoflombard.org>
To: "Thomas Masterson" <Tom@TJMCO.com>
Cc: <g.a.gron@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 05, 2007 9:43 PM
Subject: Re: Customer Parking Only in the Downtown Area

Tom,

Of course I would be in favor of customer parking only, in hopes it will benefit our business owners. The thing I don't want to see is a community service officer being called on there every half hour to chase down someone that is in question of being a customer or not. How do we differentiate. What about special occasions (cruise nites?)-lot to think about here-Greg

MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT
21 North Park
Business Application

***** PLEASE PRINT *****

Date of Application: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Name of Employee: _____

Home Address: _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Phone(s): (work) _____ (home) _____

Vehicle Information -

Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

License Plate Number: _____

Valid Vehicle Sticker No. (if Lombard Resident) _____

Town Issuing Vehicle Sticker _____

Please sign below verifying that all information above is true and correct.

(Signature) _____

Permit # Issued: _____	Date Issued: _____
Period End (circle one): March September	

NOTE: Permit will not be issued unless all information requested is complete.