

FROM THE DESK OF

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**To: Knoxville-Knox County Planning**

**Subject: Ordinance Amendment [8-D-23-OA](#)**

I am writing this letter in support of proposed Amendment 8-D-23-OA to our City codes. Most of this amendment deals with required parking spaces, and any effort to reduce parking mandates should be welcomed with open arms. Parking mandates, specifically off-street parking minimums, are a scourge on cities based on nothing more than arbitrary figures which differ from town to town. Requiring the construction of off-street parking spaces only increases the costs of development which often results in apartments and homes being more expensive or potential new businesses not opening due to the insane amount of land we require for parked vehicles.

The most common-sense and simple thing to do would be to follow in the footsteps of cities like Fayetteville, Arkansas or Jackson, Tennessee and remove all parking minimum requirements city-wide. This is one area where the market and developers know best and should have the full freedom to decide what to do. Many do not realize that by removing the mandate for parking, more corridors and streets can become walkable enough to then allow transit to better function. Requiring even minor parking lots beside, behind, or in front of buildings makes a landscape far more dangerous to pedestrians and far too depressing and ugly to even attempt to walk. Compare, for example, the experience of walking down Gay Street to walking on the sidewalk literally anywhere on Kingston Pike in Beardon or Broadway in Fountain City. For transit to function best, we must allow cities to develop without requiring cars to dominate everything.

At minimum, parking requirements along all transit corridors should be removed within 1/4 to 1/2 of a mile from them, regardless of frequency of bus service. Allowing these corridors to densify will provide the needed population and tax revenue to increase the KAT budget in the future and increase frequency on all routes. End parking requirements and watch transit, and the local economy, flourish.