

202000231

3784 Powner Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45248  
January 30, 2020

Councilmember David Mann  
801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Councilmember Mann:

I am writing in the hope you would initiate legislation to curb the predatory actions of private parking vendors in the Over the Rhine area of Cincinnati. Specifically, the parking area located at 1440 Walnut Street. On January 26, 2020, I had occasion to park at this location. I anticipated I would need two hours for dinner at a nearby restaurant and paid, by credit card, for two hours of parking. Upon my return, I found my vehicle missing.

After searching the parking area, I was able to find a sign; somewhat obscured behind several others, that had notice of towing for overtime parking. Upon contacting the towing company, At Your Service Towing, a very rude individual informed me that my vehicle was towed to 816 Sycamore Street, and I would be required to pay \$157.00, in cash, to retrieve my auto. When I asked why my vehicle was towed, he stated that I had parked without paying. I assured him he was incorrect.

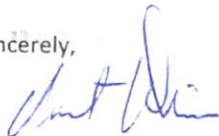
My wife and I began looking for a bank teller machine as we walked the many blocks to 816 Sycamore Street. Upon entering the facility, I was told my vehicle was towed, not because I failed to pay as was originally stated, but because I was eight minutes late returning to retrieve my car.

The parking lot where I had parked is not staffed so I am uncertain as to the exact time my vehicle was towed but I believed I returned within my two hour limit. If we accept the premise that I was eight minutes late, my fine amounts to a charge of over \$18.00 per minute from a parking facility that charge during premium parking hours, five cents per minute. I find my fine to be excessive and unwarranted based on the alleged violation of being eight minutes late.

I would request legislation prohibiting the towing of vehicles from private parking until at least one hour after the parking ticket expires. I would also recommend allowing the parking company to charge the registered credit card based on any additional time used by the tardy consumer up to the one hour limit before towing. Finally, I find the need for the cash only method of payment to be unfair and totally unwarranted especially when a credit card is used to make the initial payment at a self service automated kiosk. This unnecessary requirement of cash only is especially disconcerting to patrons who do not carry large amounts of cash and must try to find a bank teller machine during the late evening hours in an unfamiliar environment.

While I am extremely familiar with the area, I cannot imagine what an infrequent visitor would have felt in this type of circumstance. I thank you for your attention to this matter and pray you will advance legislation to stop these predatory practices which are greed based, unnecessary, and drive consumers away from doing business in the city of Cincinnati.

Sincerely,



Vincent L. Demasi