



Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

September 14, 2022

MOTION

Parking & Sustainability

WE MOVE that, the Administration report back to Council within sixty (60) days on the environmental impacts of surface parking lots, which may include but is not limited to; their relation to urban heat islands, stormwater management, materials/construction, and vehicle emissions. Administration may consider soliciting feedback from the Office of Environment and Sustainability, Greater Cincinnati Water Works, the Department of Transportation and Engineering, and any other agency with relevant expertise.

STATEMENT

Surface parking lots contribute to the constraint and degradation of our urban and natural environment. As the Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) states, “Surface parking lots downtown should be discouraged to make way for higher density uses of the space, and minimum parking requirements should be reduced.”¹ Nearly all the surface parking lots in downtown are constructed/paved out of impervious material. The inability of surface parking lots to absorb water and sunlight can overwhelm our sewer system and increase temperatures.

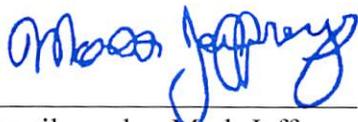
Not only are surface parking lots harmful for the environment due to their typically impervious nature, but there are also huge environmental opportunity costs when our City’s most valuable land is used for surface parking. As the Built Environment section of the GCP recommends, the City should “encourage population density and transit-oriented development in appropriate locations through zoning and incentives.”² The benefits of implementing this recommendation include:

¹ “2018 Green Cincinnati Plan,” pg. 50-51

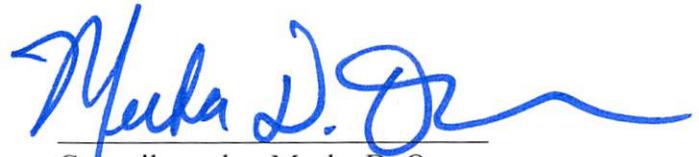
² “2018 Green Cincinnati Plan,” pg. 50-51

- Residents have shown that they are drawn to active, vibrant neighborhoods with shops, restaurants, and activities.
- Increasing population density by zoning and incentives will allow for more centralized centers of shopping and business.
- Reducing the need for private cars will address equity in terms of making services available to everyone.

In the midst of a climate crisis and a housing crisis, minimizing the amount of surface parking lots can lead to better land-use developments, accomplishing environmental and housing goals, and minimizing their negative consequences.



Councilmember Mark Jeffreys



Councilmember Meeka D. Owens