



May 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Sacramento City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed increases in downtown parking rates, including hourly and monthly garage fees.

As a downtown business owner, I understand and support the City's goals of improving safety, and creating an attractive and vibrant downtown core. However, I believe the proposed parking increases will unintentionally harm the very businesses that we are trying to encourage downtown.

The reality is our retail and restaurant customers overwhelmingly arrive by car. Driving is more practical for families, older customers, visitors and anyone making purchases they do not want to carry long distances.

Downtown Sacramento is not San Francisco, we are competing directly with suburban shopping centers in Arden, Roseville, Elk Grove and Natomas, all of which offer abundant free parking, easy access and convenience. Every additional cost or inconvenience becomes another reason for customers to shop elsewhere or online.

Parking is not merely a source of city revenue, it is part of the customer experience and should be viewed as an economic development tool that helps to support commerce downtown. We are still recovering from reduced office worker traffic, homelessness impacts, changing shopping habits and increasing operating costs.

If Sacramento wants a thriving downtown, we must recognize the practical realities of how people currently shop, dine and visit businesses.

I respectfully urge the Council to reconsider a parking rate increase and instead pursue balanced solutions that support visitation recovery and help small businesses remain viable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,

Deborah Chaussé  
Owner  
Evangeline's