



May 27, 2005

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am once again addressing the 2-hour limit parking issue on the south side of the street in the first block west of East Blvd. (Initial letter attached and attended Public Works Council Meeting when it was on the agenda.)

As previously stated, last fall and for most of the winter months, employees (6-8 persons) of the Great Western Bank parked their vehicles for eight hours a day in the block referred to. This was somewhat of an inconvenience to business owners and employees located in this block and, although most certainly rude, not illegal.

I was contacted by an employee of the management company for the used furniture store asking what I thought should be done because their renter was upset. My suggestion was that she or the management company go to the bank and politely request that their employees use parking spaces more appropriate to the bank.

Apparently, someone did just that and within weeks the bank employees had moved to another area (still on Main Street, but further west).

The management company representative also asked what I thought about limited parking and I in no uncertain terms told him, "don't do that to us. That will not be good for any of the businesses in the block." (This has been proven to be true.)

Unfortunately, it is obvious that limited parking was requested and implemented without notice of any kind to the business owners/employees to be impacted. I would object to the fact that this decision was not discussed with any of the seven business owners (15 personnel) in the building at 17 and 19 Main Street. It would be my understanding that if an decision such as this was requested and/or placed on a council agenda, interested parties were to be notified, whether it is in a business district or a residential district. Is my understanding correct?)

Our private parking lot behind 17 and 19 Main Street accommodates 10-12 cars – fewer at times considering the number of people having pickups or SUVs of some size. For years (I have been at this location for nearly 10 years) everyone has been comfortable with the parking arrangements, parking lot and street, in addition to the fact it is a this is a very convenient location for all of our clients.

I would point out again that this is not the downtown district and we did not have the parking issues of downtown – of course, until now.

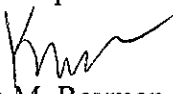
We have two business owners and at least one employee who need to be parked on the street for much longer than two hours at a time. Now, of course, these people park across the street in someone else's places or drive further west and park in someone else's places – will someone in that area soon be complaining that our vehicles are there for 6-8

hours and they look up the street and see rarely more than two to three vehicles parked in 25 spaces that could be referred to as "ours"? (The business owners/employees.)

To Reiterate Requests and Comments:

- Explain to me the cost-effectiveness of the City providing a meter person with a City vehicle to drive to this block, get out and mark a maximum of three vehicles at any give time, get in the City vehicle and drive away? Does the meter person provide a count of vehicles marked in a given time to aid in determining the need for such limited parking? Incidentally, there have been some days when the meter person has not been in this block at all, as witnessed by employee(s) who have parked there all day without penalty/ticket.
- I have done an informal survey myself and other than between about 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., when a half dozen vehicles come and go (this business has very limited seating, if any) there are never more than three to four vehicles parked on the south side of the street – and there 25 plus parking spots open.
- When this issue was initially addressed, I was referred to Public Works since parking is within that department's area of decision-making, only to find out that, in fact, the original decision had been made by Legal and Finance. And, the reasoning behind that would be? In fact, I believe I know the answer to that, but would appreciate confirmation or explanation.
- It is of concern that this parking designation was made on one (maybe two) individual's request without discussion or consideration for the other citizens/employers/employees affected and, apparently, even without the input of Public Works.
- As another point, several business owners at our location have had their clients tell them they drove by and did not stop because there were NO cars on the street and they thought the building was closed.

Please give consideration to these concerns and GIVE US BACK OUR STREET!!
Please respond.


Karen M. Rayman
19 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 341-6231

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April 12, 2005

Jean French
City Council/Public Works Committee
french@rushmore.com

At issue is the recent designation of limited 2-hour parking on the south side of Main Street in the block directly west of East Blvd., and how this is affecting the businesses located at 17 Main Street and 19 Main Street in particular.

There are seven businesses at this site, having been located here from 5 to 15 years, respectively, involving approximately 15 personnel. The parking lot behind the building accommodates 10-12 vehicles – varying some with pickup versus sedan. Two business owners and a minimum of one employee **park consistently and directly in front of our building**, necessarily for a good deal more than two hours at a time.

In addition, three of these businesses have occasion to have client meetings for extended periods of time.

This is my understanding of the events, which led up to this limited parking designation:

Several months ago, I received a call from a representative of the property management company which handles the building where the used furniture store is located on the east end of the block. (I am acquainted with the representative through other business matters.) He told me they were going to lose the renter because people parked in front of her business and what did I suggest be done.

I told him we were aware of a problem in the block, our people had seen this also, but when discussed amongst us, we all agreed the people causing the problem weren't very courteous, but it was open parking, so we simply adjusted.

I told the representative the problem at the time was the bank employees from the bank south across our alley. For some months, six to eight of those employees would park in this block for eight hours a day, a number of them in front of the used furniture store. My suggestion for a simple solution for the used furniture lady to contact the bank and request that the employees have some respect for the businesses in this block and refrain from the long-term parking.

The representative asked me if I thought two-hour parking was the answer – I said, don't do that. That would cause great inconvenience for all the business in the block, when the used furniture store parking issue could be solved so simply.

Incidentally, someone must have contacted the bank because some weeks ago, no one, other than, business owners or employees parks in this block for extended times. Actually, the two-hour parking created a new problem for the used furniture store lady, because now anyone can legally park in her spots for two hours.

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I have been doing a simple survey of the parking in the block for several days, particularly as it relates to our businesses (seven spaces plus). There are two vehicles parked since 7:45 a.m. for extended time in front of our building (both business owners at 19 Main Street). Three of the businesses have had clients parked short-term (one-half hour to one hour) in front of 19 Main Street between 9:30 and 10:30. One person stopped for 15 minutes at 11:00 a.m. This is a typical day. The only long-term parking that relates to our building is the business owners and one-to-two employees for varying lengths of time, but always more than two hours. A look up and down the street at those times or any given time indicates that all of the businesses in this have very similar parking traffic. My point being, the majority of the businesses in this block DID NOT have a parking problem, until now.

I would hope that decision-makers drive by several times for several days in order to evaluate the parking.

(Also, I would have you be aware that at about 10:45 today a meter maid walked by and there were two vehicles (very typical) in the whole block for tire marking; seems like a mighty unnecessary trip for her.)

If the used furniture store business has parking concerns, I would suggest that be dealt with individually for her business, thereby not inadvertently affecting the space of the majority of the other business owners in this block.

One more question I have – is it customary for a decision such as this two-hour parking limit to be made in a business area without notification or discussion with the businesses that will be affected?

Thank you, Jean, for taking the time to consider my request for rescinding the decision to limit this parking. If I can be of further assistance in addressing this issue, please contact me. I would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

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Karen M. Rayman
19 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 341-6231