

Subject: Parking limit change to 3 hours

Esteemed RC Council,

It is our understanding that on March 16, you intend to vote on changes for the downtown parking ordinance. Whereas we have always considered a \$5 parking ticket negligible, a \$25 fine is not reasonable in RC. Not only is \$25 highly excessive but such a fine will punish downtown restaurants, businesses, the library & the Elks Theatre when patrons refuse to gamble by parking downtown. With all the wonderful restaurants that have opened downtown in the past few years, why would you penalize them with \$25 fines for their patrons? We have attended lunch business meetings at downtown restaurants & have arrived back at the car to find a ticket. We've been in the library at meetings in the community rooms only to return to the car to also find a ticket. If anything, **the parking time should be extended to 3 hours.** In no way will we support \$25 fines! We do **support extending the parking limit to 3 hours.** Perhaps if you were more realistic with 3 hour parking limits instead of 2, people would be allowed to complete their business & vacate the parking space without being punished.

Regards,
Robert & Judy Allen
4454 W. Glen Pl.
R.C. 57702
390-9230

Subject: Parking fine increase- and a better solution!

Greetings: I have never written a political e-mail before, so please accept my mostly copied and pasted e-mail today.

I SUPPORT THE INCREASED TIME LIMITS ON PARKING AND THE \$25 FINE IS A GREAT IDEA.

The city counsel recently changed the downtown parking ordinance to a structured fine system that results in \$25 parking tickets. While I understand and support the reasoning for this change, it will devastate the Elks Theatre. Without a desperately needed change in the parking time limits, their repeat customers are guaranteed to receive a parking ticket that is now no longer a manageable cost of patronizing our downtown, but a parking ticket that will impact their decisions to frequent downtown!

Again, this will devastate The Elks Theatre and everything they are able to do for the Rapid City community as well as many other small business in the downtown area.

Myself, along with my fellow downtown business owners and organizations, are asking city counsel to change the time limits from 2 hour to 3 hour parking. This is a very simple, reasonable, and meaningful change that will not disrupt the nature or intent of the recent ordinance change, yet it prevents an unavoidable ticket that will make downtown Rapid City a very undesirable place to spend time.

The Elks Theatre has been a community minded, energetic gem in downtown Rapid City for 103 years, and I view it as a personal responsibility to do everything I can to protect it's future.

I SUPPORT THE INCREASED TIME LIMITS ON PARKING AND THE \$25 FINE IS A GREAT IDEA.

Laura Dahn
Legal Assistant
DRISCOLL LAW OFFICE, P.C.
P.O. Box 2216
Rapid City, SD 57709
Phone: (605) 718-5710
Fax: (605) 348-1976