

Harbour Management Corp.

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April 17 2015

City of Barrie
70 Collier St
Barrie, ON

RE: Proposed Evening Parking Rate Changes – Downtown

It has come to my attention that there has been discussion about proposed changes to the downtown parking rates in the City (Section D 15-G-083 Minutes April 13 2015).

As Owner of the Uptown Theater located in the heart of downtown, I must take this opportunity to express my extreme opposition to this rate increase recommendation.

A key attraction to heading to Downtown Barrie in the evenings and on weekends is the free parking. Without this perk, I feel that business would suffer dramatically. Wealthier businesses, with well off clients, such as the many sex parlours and tattoo shops, may well be able to absorb this increase, however, my honourable movie going patrons, may not and may choose to bypass heading to my Theater, which I am already subsidizing greatly.

The Downtown, including the Theater, currently exists in an extremely fragile state. I am growing increasingly concerned with the skyrocketing vacancy rate of the downtown. As a landlord, heavily invested in the fabric of downtown, I have been attempting to rent to only quality tenants and encourage these tenants to stay open later in an effort to improve and stabilize the downtown area.

Should the City choose to proceed, please be advised that I will seriously consider folding the already failing Theater.

This proposal is pure madness and will surely set back the downtown, leaving owners with no other alternative than to accept these less desirable businesses in order to survive, ultimately having the opposing effect on what the downtown area requires in order to replenish and thrive.

Sincerely,

Mark Porter