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Subject: Support for ORD. 2023-101
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Planning Commission and City Council,

Please support ORD. 2023-101 to remove all parking minimums city-wide. Removing parking minimums is one of the necessary steps to becoming a more affordable, creative, and green city. Dozens of cities across the U.S. have eliminated parking minimums in the past few years, from Raleigh to Anchorage, and it's time Richmond joined them.

Removing parking minimums make it easier to build more affordable housing; [a recent study from the Victoria Transport Policy Institute](#) found that " Based on typical affordable housing development costs, one parking space per unit typically increases moderate-priced housing costs approximately 12%, and two parking spaces increases lower-priced housing costs by 25%. Since parking costs increase as a percentage of rent for lower priced housing, and low income households tend to own fewer vehicles, parking minimums are unfair and regressive."

Eliminating mandatory parking requirements also helps business - especially small businesses who don't have extra capital to build government mandated parking spots. [The American Planning Association documented how the small town of Auburn, Maine](#) made life easier for businesses by removing parking minimums. For small, local businesses trying to make it, having to provide a few surface parking spaces can be the difference between success and failure.

Finally, no city can call itself a climate champion while simultaneously mandating parking. By not prioritizing the personal automobile, we do prioritize transit, walking & rolling, biking, and other more sustainable forms of transportation. Additionally, eliminating parking minimums will allow us to more easily densify. It is undeniable that denser areas are better for the climate than more spread out areas, as shown in [these carbon footprint per capita maps by CoolClimate](#). Eliminating parking minimums is undeniably good for the environment.

Thank you and please support ORD 2023-101.

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