



Department of Public Works

**Mariano A. Schifalacqua**  
Commissioner of Public Works

**James P. Purko**  
Director of Operations

March 31, 2003

Members, Public Safety Committee  
Milwaukee Common Council  
Room 205, City Hall

Dear Members:

Common Council File #021726 is a proposed ordinance relating to the elimination of metered parking on Saturdays along West Mitchell Street between S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street and portions of various intersecting streets. In addition the proposed ordinance would retain the current posted time restrictions.

The Department of Public Works is strongly opposed to free meter parking on Saturdays in this specified area. We have expressed our opposition to this proposal in writing to both Alderman Angel Sanchez and the Greater Mitchell Street Association.

All commercial districts outside of the downtown area and Third Ward areas have metered parking on Saturdays. These areas include Brady Street, Downer Avenue, Farwell Avenue, North Avenue, National Avenue, Fond du Lac Avenue and Kinnickinnic Avenue as well as other areas. The meters in these areas cost \$0.25/hour for 2-hour parking. Like Mitchell Street, the retail establishments in these districts thrive on Saturdays creating high demand for short-term on-street parking. Although the cost of metered parking is reasonable it is sufficient to encourage vehicle turnover forcing employees of the business establishments and residents to find longer term parking options elsewhere.

In order to accommodate longer term parking needs in the Mitchell Street area, the City began providing free parking on Saturdays in two City-owned metered parking lots on Mitchell Street in January. Consequently there is more convenient on-street parking for customers of the local businesses.

As you know there is free meter parking on Saturdays in the downtown area, including the Third Ward, although comparing commercial districts to this area is inappropriate due to differences in parking demand. On Saturdays, the demand for on-street parking significantly decreases in this area because most professional offices are

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