



Historic Downtown Mall

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

★ CHARLOTTESVILLE VIRGINIA ★

April 17, 2016

To: The Honorable Mayor Signer, Councilors Kathy Galvin, Kristin Szakos, Wes Bellamy & Bob Fenwick and Mr. Mark Brown:

The Executive Board of the DBAC is not going to take sides in the dispute between the City of Charlottesville and Mr. Mark Brown over the parking situation at the Water Street Garage. It appears that there are strong personalities involved, with neither side wishing to compromise. This could result in a major setback for the merchants of the Downtown Mall.

As the organization, whose mission is to enhance and support the vitality and prosperity of the Downtown Mall, we wish to express our desire to see a quick resolution to the situation. We hope that both parties will compromise, take the good of the community into consideration and forgo all personal vendettas. Rumors have been floating around for the past few days that one option would be to close the Water Street Garage in early May, thus losing many parking spaces for those wishing to do business on the mall. This we find unacceptable.

It is our strong position that both parties must work to come to an agreement which will permanently resolve the parking issues not only at the Water Street Garage, but address the parking challenges in general. The economic state of Charlottesville is strongly impacted by the Downtown Mall. It is a historic attraction and a major source of income for the city and its businesses. We urge Mr. Brown and the City to consider the significant impact the lack of a resolution would have on the public image of Charlottesville.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for the city to create a long term plan to address solutions, including the building of an additional parking structure. The development of a comprehensive parking plan should be a major priority for the continued growth of business for the downtown area.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and its resolution.

George Benford
Chairman DBAC
On behalf of the DBAC Executive Board