



DowntownCharlottetownInc.



**GREATER CHARLOTTETOWN AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

January 19, 2021

To: Mayor Philip Brown
Deputy Mayor Jason Coady
Councillor Julie McCabe
Councillor Alanna Jankov

RE: Joint request from Downtown Charlottetown Inc. and the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce for a freeze on the increase of parking rates in the City of Charlottetown

Dear Mayor Brown and Members of Council,

As a follow up to the meeting with you, Downtown Charlottetown Inc., and the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce on January 14, 2021, we have outlined below our concerns to the proposed parking fee increases in Charlottetown.

- ***We request a freeze on any parking rate increases, meter or parkade, until August 31, 2021, at which time we would reconvene to continue the conversation and ascertain the status and impact of COVID-19 on our City and businesses therein.***

Raised meter rates are a significant deterrent for individuals to travel downtown to shop, eat and do business. Similarly, additional parking garage fees cause further financial strain for the many local businesses trying to recover and office workers considering transitioning from working at home to returning to their downtown office.

- ***We feel this is not the time to increase parking rates.***

While these rate changes were part of the City's 2020-21 budget plans, economic conditions changed drastically since that time and the onset of the pandemic. Little has changed in economic realities. As we witnessed in December, with the introduction of circuit breaker measures, we are still very vulnerable to ever-changing circumstances of COVID-19. We must stay on course and not add any additional burden on small local businesses until we have realized or enter fully into a recovery phase.

DCI and the GCACC remain committed to working with the City on this and all issues affecting businesses and community. We must work together through the ongoing pandemic and beyond to create better days for all.

Sincerely,

Dawn Alan
Executive Director of DCI

Penny Walsh-McGuire
CEO of the Greater Charlottetown Area of Commerce