

From: Bella

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:28 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter Campaign against Removing Free Parking Lots in OEV

Dear City Council,

I am one of the small business owners in Old East Village (OEV) in London Ontario, and I just got informed that the free two-hour parking in Municipal Lots 1 & 2 in OEV will come to an end on March 31, 2024, which will affect and hit hard on bringing traffic for both existing and new customers or even tourists to continue supporting the retail stores including mine in OEV. The traffic has been reduced already since March 1st 2024, when the parking fee was raised, and we had many customers who were not happy with that and complained about it even last week, saying they will not come back again because they spent their own money to support the small businesses, but it seems like the City doesn't want it.

Another fact, some customers just want to get something quick to go, and free parking helps a lot. However when the free two-hour parking lot is removed, no one will be willing to come to visit us for a ticket, which is \$40, and eventually all the small businesses in OEV will become permanently closed. This will bring a miserable, empty and zombie environment because people won't be able to find or see any positive energy here.

Once again, I would like to emphasize that the OEV is the core area in the city because all the amazing small businesses start here, and removing the free two-hour municipal parking lots will certainly put all the small businesses in OEV in a vulnerable situation and it will take away all customers. If this is what the City wants, please share your reasons.

Sincerely,

Bella