



Ark Aid Street Mission Inc.

696 Dundas St. London, ON N5W 2Z4 | (519) 667-0322 | info@arkaidmission.com

April 26, 2024

To CPSC
Cc: Josh Morgan, Mayor
All City Concillors

RE: Item 2.5 Core Area Parking Incentives Extension

Thank you for your ongoing work in supporting the city of London in being a place of belonging and welcome for all its citizens and visitors. We are happy to see the recommendations in this report that will support local businesses and Londoners in coming into the downtown and OEV areas to experience all the wonderful life these economic, cultural and community services offer!

We humbly are seeking council support in assisting Ark Aid Street Mission in securing free parking for the over 600 volunteers who rotationally serve to support the clean up, basic needs provision, food security and system navigation needs of hundreds of Londondoners. **Our volunteers provide an average of 400 hours per week of volunteer services equaling an economic value of \$353 600 to our community** and come from all over the city to add their care and support to the Old East Village Community. **We are seeking a waiving of fees for up to 20 spaces in Lot 1 (behind Ark Aid Street Mission)** that will be used rotationally by volunteers, donors and community partners to assist us in providing over 20 000 service interactions each month.

We have worked with the parking department and Sean Steenbergen, Manager - compliance and Parking Services to evaluate all options to support ways to reduce or manage the cost of parking for our volunteers, however all strategies are very costly (about \$5/day per spot, and I would have to plan for the highest volume of volunteers which is over dinner time which also spans over the two fee schedules for day and evening parking- for 20 spaces is approx. \$100/day). Further Sean has explained that waiving or changing fees is something that must be directed by council unless there is an already established protocol for alternative pricing which for this lot and this function does not exist.

Finally, we have given up what limited parking we have on our own property for the care and service of the OEV community, changing our entrances, having secured space for belongings management outside of our building so people can come and receive services and inviting people to spend time within our program space in alternative to being in the lots, or business doorways. Should we not have alternative parking, perhaps the city will provide space in the lot for the care and support of our community so we can offer our limited property to our volunteers as parking.

We look forward to your support in this matter.

In Service to our Community together,

Sarah Campbell and the Board of Ark Aid Street Mission



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Appendix A: Volunteer e-mails/concerns

From: sporter@biofuelsconsulting.ca <sporter@biofuelsconsulting.ca>
Date: Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 4:42 PM
Subject: Volunteer parking
To: director@arkaidmission.com <director@arkaidmission.com>

When I was serving at the Ark last Wednesday, I found out that the Honk free parking is no longer accepted.

I have been a volunteer at Ark Aid for about 15 years. During that time, I was on the Ark Board for a couple of years. So, I am more committed than most volunteers. However, for some, having to pay more than \$5 for parking to serve at the Ark will be a deterrent to volunteering. Suggest you approach City of London and request passes for volunteers. They allow this for restaurants downtown so I see no reason why they would not comply with such a request, especially since it is for the good of the City.

Regards,
[Stu Porter](#)
President
[Biofuels Consulting Canada Inc.](#)

From: The Vissers [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Paying for Parking for us Volunteers
To: director@arkaidmission.com <director@arkaidmission.com>

Hello Sarah:

Just inquiring about having to pay for parking now when we come volunteer at the Ark. Today I had to pay \$7.25 for 3 hours of volunteering and I do this once a week. My sister drives in from Grand Bend to volunteer and pays enough already for her gas to volunteer. I'm afraid you will lose a lot of your volunteers starting next week if we have to pay for parking. Also, it would of been nice if we were sent an email letting us know about this parking fee in advance as well. There were rumours in the London Free Press about this over a month ago but we heard nothing from Ark about this. Please let me know if Ark is working on getting this resolved in the near future.

Thanks so much,
Connie Visser