



City of Phoenix
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor Stanton,

As you are well aware, the City of Phoenix is considering charging for parking at some of our public parks – something that we have never in our history done before. It is my firm belief that these parks should remain free so that all of our citizens, no matter their financial status, have the opportunity to use and enjoy the parks that their taxes have already paid for.

In the last few days, my office has received over 200 emails and numerous calls on the issue – all but 2 have been adamantly opposed to the proposal.

I am extremely troubled by the talk of sending this issue to an unelected board rather than to the full Council. Such a move is disrespectful to voters who can hold us accountable but have no recourse against an unelected board. I firmly insist that any proposal to charge for parking at any City of Phoenix park or preserve be brought before the entire Council, and remind you that you have the authority to place this item on the agenda at a policy meeting of the City Council.

An important issue like this, which represents a significant break with our current policy, ought to be debated and decided by the Council so that our citizens may be heard through their elected representatives.

It seems that, at all levels of government, elected officials are avoiding hard votes by handing the decision over to agencies and boards so that the elected official never has to register his or her opinion. Such behavior is shameful and cowardly. We, as elected officials, owe it to the voters not to simply pass the issue off to a board in order to avoid a public vote on a controversial issue.

Again, I call upon you to ensure that this issue be brought before the Council before it can be implemented.

Respectfully,