



February 11, 2009

Scott Morris, Chairman  
Planning Commission  
City of Tacoma  
747 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Chairman Morris and members of the Planning Commission:

The New Tacoma Neighborhood Council expresses its support for the proposed ordinance that eliminates parking requirements for new buildings in the International Financial Services Area (IFSA).

We believe this change to city ordinance is vital to the continued downtown revitalization as it will allow new projects to be built without mandatory parking construction, which can be cost-prohibitive for developers. Moreover, such parking facilities turn new buildings into "dead zones" that discourage pedestrian traffic - an effect that can be detrimental to the downtown core.

We are committed to creating a vibrant, creative and livable downtown. We applaud the efforts of the Planning Commission to achieve the same goal. We hope, however, that the Planning Commission and the City of Tacoma's effort to eliminate parking requirements do not stop at the borders of the IFSA. We believe that the elimination of the parking requirement should be extended to the entire New Tacoma Neighborhood Council District and, when deemed prudent, across the city.

As you continue your deliberations, we strongly encourage you to look at developing alternative forms of transportation throughout the city, particularly in the downtown core. Developing such alternatives - such as street car and expanded light-rail systems, pedestrian and bike paths, and carpool and vanpool systems, among other things - can only enhance the vibrancy and life in Tacoma.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dalton Gittens  
Chairman  
New Tacoma Neighborhood Council