

February 28, 2023

Dear Mayor, City Council and City Manager,

As a long-time River Market housing developer, I would like to take this opportunity to lend my voice to the ongoing concerns of the tenants and property owners of the historic River Market Neighborhood that are now facing a further reduction in their off-street parking needs. While the proposed City Harvest residential multi-family project will undoubtedly contribute significant economic benefit and business support to these very same stakeholders it, nonetheless, must respect the parking needs of these groups moving forward and replace the public parking it is displacing.

The RFP from Port KC that was published in 2020 for the city-owned parking lot at 5th & Main Street clearly stated that any redevelopment would need to replace the approximate 160 stalls of public parking, in addition to providing off-street parking to satisfy the project's market needs. Despite that provision, those requirements have been progressively eliminated without any public notice or involvement. In fact, approximately 80 of the 160 spaces were earmarked, and included in select leases, for the owners and employees of City Market businesses. These businesses rely on this parking to make sure their employees have convenient access to work, as most of those employees commute to work every day, weekends included.

I would respectfully insist the City Harvest development entity honor the commitment they made when initially responding to the RFP for this publicly owned property and replace all the parking being displaced.

Regards,

George G. Birt

