

From: callie Johnston [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 5:56 PM
To: info <info@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Urgent Request: Downtown Worker Parking Pass System

Dear Sebastopol Downtown Association,

I'm reaching out as a local business owner to express an ongoing concern regarding parking availability for downtown workers and to request serious consideration of implementing a parking pass system for employees working in the downtown area.

Currently, there is only one designated section for 24-hour parking in downtown Sebastopol, and it fills up quickly. Many of us working downtown are left without realistic options. I have spoken with several other workers and business owners who share the same experience — it adds significant stress to have to move vehicles multiple times throughout the workday, and after working long hours, discovering a \$40 parking ticket feels both discouraging and unfair.

As business owners who actively support the city — bringing in foot traffic, contributing to the local economy, and investing in maintaining storefronts downtown — it is extremely frustrating to struggle to find parking and then be fined on top of that.

The issue has become more urgent with current construction projects, including the livery and ongoing work affecting Burnett Street, which has further reduced available parking while simultaneously increasing demand due to construction crews needing spaces.

Other nearby cities, such as Windsor, have implemented parking pass systems that allow downtown workers unlimited parking time. A similar system here could significantly reduce stress for workers and support the sustainability of small businesses in Sebastopol.

At this point, I have personally paid over \$300 in parking tickets, along with significant time spent contesting them. I have attempted to discuss this in person with the city but have not received clear guidance or solutions, which is why I am reaching out to your organization for support.

Due to the demands of running a small business, it is not realistic for me to regularly attend town or city meetings, as I am typically working during those times. I am hopeful this is something that can be addressed in a more timely and practical manner, and I would greatly appreciate guidance on next steps or how this conversation can move forward productively.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Callie Johnston

