

Re: Alternative Plans for Sebastopol

From Jennifer Balletto [REDACTED]
Date Tue 3/3/2026 1:12 PM
To Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Hi Victoria,

I appreciate you helping me out with this.

Here is my public statement:

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to formally oppose the installation of a parklet in front of my business.

On June 27, 2022, an SUV drove into the parklet while I and six children from my summer camp were seated inside eating lunch. It was a terrifying experience, and we were incredibly fortunate that no one was injured. I have attached a photo of the incident for reference. I initially supported the parklet program until that incident permanently changed my position. My main concern is had one of the children been injured, the liability consequences could have been devastating, not to mention would myself or my business be liable?

In addition to safety concerns, the parklet previously created operational challenges for my business, including the following: bstructed my UPS and FedEx deliveries due to reduced sidewalk access, persistent trash overflow in the garbage cans directly in front of my windows and food waste left behind, leading to rats in the parklet and coming out at night.

As a downtown business owner of 20 years, I strongly urge the city to prioritize public safety and practical infrastructure needs. Especially given the last couple of weeks in our county when a truck smashed into a tree and hit the side of Jaspers (across from Create it!) and the car which drove into Oliver's Market injuring five people, one resulting in surgery.

In my professional experience, the primary issue facing our downtown is parking availability for customers and employees. Before implementing additional street modifications, I believe parking solutions should be the City's top priority. I respectfully request that the Council consider the direct safety risks and economic impacts on existing businesses before moving forward with this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Balletto