



Crestwood Civic Club
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December 3, 2012

Dear Mayor Annise Parker and Houston City Council Members:

I am writing this letter to express my support of the Parking Benefit District initiative that will be considered at the City Council meeting this week.

For several years, I have heard the experiences of residents living near Washington Avenue in Super Neighborhood 22 meetings, and in other meetings and conversations. My wife and I had the opportunity to experience Washington Avenue first hand when we resided at the apartments on the corner of Washington and Heights two years ago when our home was being renovated. The chaos was extraordinary on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights!

The Parking Benefit District meeting, hosted by Council Member Cohen on October 24, was an opportunity for residents and business owners to understand the issues that can be addressed by this pilot program. The proposed district can become a framework to help solve the parking and safety issues along Washington Avenue. The benefits include:

- Parking meters on Washington provide a source of revenue that can be directed at other parking solutions now and in the future.
- Solves the short-comings of the current Residential Parking Permits ordinance in a mix-use environment.
- Provides an incentive to current and future business owners to work cooperatively to put creative and viable parking solutions along Washington Avenue that can be viewed by these owners as potential revenue and not just an added cost of doing business.

I am therefore asking that you approve the creation of the Parking Benefit District to help support the continued development of distressed areas of Houston into vibrant urban neighborhoods.

Regards,

Mike VanDusen
President, Crestwood Civic Club