



October 2, 2023

Mayor Scott Wehrli  
Members of the City Council  
City of Naperville  
400 S. Eagle Street  
Naperville, IL 60540

Re: Downtown Parking Deck Ordinance

Mayor Wehrli and Members of the City Council:

The restaurants in downtown Naperville rely on the availability of safe parking for their patrons and staff. The restaurant owners know from countless studies conducted by the city that the peak parking times are Thursday through Saturday, during early evening dining hours. Recognizing that evening diners place the most significant demand on parking, the restaurants downtown collect an *additional* food and beverage tax to contribute to the high cost of structured parking.

During the pandemic the parking garages were mostly empty, providing an attractive environment for trouble. In response, the city closed off the top floors of the Van Buren and Water Street parking decks. The restaurants and merchants are now recovering, the parking needs are rising, and the top floors of the decks are needed for parking.

To ensure a safe environment in the decks, the downtown restaurants support providing adequate and appropriate tools for the Naperville Police Department to patrol the decks, including the amendment proposed in the October 3, 2023, council packet. The language contained in the amendment to Section 11-2B-13 makes clear that the parking decks are for the benefit of the public to safely park cars and bicycles.

Residents and visitors to our downtown should expect a safe environment and the merchants and city that fund the decks should expect their investments to operate in a manner for which they were built.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Downtown Members of the Naperville Restaurant Association:

Anthony Losurdo  
Hugo's Frog Bar

Chris Mason  
Allegory

Joe Tota  
Tapville Social

Carl Jensen  
Catch 35

Raj Patel  
Hari Group

Dave Miller  
Elements

Will Cullin  
Empire, Bev's, Hizeman's