

## Jackie Henderson

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6-13-15

**From:** danielle@fibrespace.com  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 5:10 PM  
**To:** City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton  
**Subject:** Call.Click.Connect. #74895: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Dear members of Council and Mayor. I am

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 74895.

### Request Details:

- Name: Danielle Romanetti
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 02-669-8282
- Email: [danielle@fibrespace.com](mailto:danielle@fibrespace.com)
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Dear members of Council and Mayor. I am writing to state my support for the extension of meter limits to 3 hours in the zone west of Alfred Street. As you know, I am a resident of Alexandria and a business owner. I own fibre space, located at 1219 King street in the heart of the zone two meter district, which is most impacted by this change. I serve on the Government Relations Committee for the Chamber, and I represent the Business and Professionals Association at the Old Town Area Parking Study Workgroup, who made this recommendation that you have before you.

When I chose to locate my business at the 1200 block of King Street, I chose it for it for the business community that was already located there – one that is locally owned, unique and boutique. Our end of town is where small businesses who are offering “an experience” have decided to do business. I, like my neighbors, structured my classes, events and even store hours around the previous parking meter policy in our zone, which offered unlimited parking after 7 or even 5 pm on some blocks in zone 2. The July 1 extension changed the game and has been devastating to many of our businesses. Visit the lounge at Vermillion during happy hour and the impact is obvious. It has certainly helped solidify our reputation as a horribly difficult place to park. Yet the spaces on our block are plentiful each and every day...

There are no long term parking options in this zone. The idea that meters are for short term visitors and garages are where longer term visitors should park is a great idea in theory. But it doesn't work so well when there is no long term parking option. We have one publically owned surface lot on South Henry. There are 48 spaces, 38 of them are leased, leaving only 10 for customers.

We are really left with only two options: 2 hour residential parking or 2 hour metered spaces. This leaves customers running back outside to move their cars, feed the meter (which isn't technically legal) or just plain leave. Daily, customers tell us that they have to run because their meter is going to run out. In our end of town, we see women with foil in their hair running out to cars to put new parking slips inside. Our students leave class early to run out to their cars.

What the data that the Old Town Area Parking Study workgroup shows is that overall since increasing the price on the meters and extending the hours across town, we have seen a DECREASE in garage usage and in INCREASE in parking at residential areas next to business zones. The data ALSO shows that zone 2 is nowhere near capacity (in fact almost every block of King in our zone was reported at between 25 and 49% usage) yet we share the same parking meter policy as the 100 block of King Street which is at greater than 90% for the same timeframe. Why? One size does not fit all. Let's fix it.

This proposal, supported unanimously by the members of the Parking Study Workgroup, is the first start in helping to correct our one size fits all parking policy. It recognizes the lack of garages and rightly offers visitors the option of simply staying in their paid metered space longer. It is just the first of several recommendations that our

group will make to start correcting for the needs of each zone or even sub sectors of those zones.

This proposal makes sense for business and makes sense for our residents. I do hope that you will support our recommendation tomorrow.

- Expected Response Date: Friday, June 19

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