

**From:** Betsy Cooley <betsycooley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 7:54 AM  
**To:** John J. Bauters; scott donahue; Ally Medina; Dianne Martinez; Christian Robin Patz; Sheri Hartz  
**Subject:** Comment from Mark Brunkhart

The following is a comment just posted on NextDoor from Mark Brunkhart of Emeryville and I agree with what he is saying as it relates to the street parking on Powell Street as it is contiguous with Watergate. The staff report that recommends putting \$28/day parking meters on Powell Street West of I-80 is essentially taking access to public property and limiting the use to the community at large by turning it in to a money generating resource to raise funds to enforce Residential Permit Parking in other parts of the city. Along with other members of the public, we have had access to these spaces and now staff is proposing to remove our access to the spaces unless we are willing to pay what amounts to a tax of \$7,280/year for each space.

"What makes it public property is that the resource is shared and your use of it is temporary and non-exclusive. That is exactly the same as street parking. Public resources create one of the few social equalities because everyone has the same right to the use of public property. When you eliminate public resources, you do not eliminate that resource, **you simply eliminate its availability to the poor.** [Emphasis added. Also, in this case you are not eliminating that space; however, you are effectively pulling those spaces from access to the general public and you would be restricting access to those who can afford an additional \$7,280/year.] In some countries, there are no public swimming pools, golf courses, or education. Guess who gets those resources.

I agree that no one has a right to a particular public parking space or to store a car on the street indefinitely (72 hour rule), but street parking was designed into the community for a good reason, namely that 90% of people own and actively use cars.

You can argue that the resource should be used differently, but there is nothing inherently different between public parking and every other public resource.

It's a good use of public space because the vast majority of people, and particularly those who can't afford anything else, need it, use it, and share it amongst themselves very effectively."

Betsy