

RATCLIFF

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February 15, 2019

To whom it may concern:

The Ratcliff Architects, headquartered at 5856 Doyle Street, writes to strongly oppose the proposed metered parking plan to be discussed at the Council meeting of February 19. According to the maps provided, the east side of Doyle Street between Powell and 59th is slated for meters. This location stands out as unique on this map, as the Townhouse restaurant is the only short-term customer tenant on this block, and maintains its own valet for its busy hours. The addition of meters would place undue burden on Ratcliff's business and our ability to retain and attract staff.

The burden placed on our business by parking meters at our front door would be two-fold: adding aggravation to the already tight parking situation experienced by our visiting clients and consultants, and impacting our ability to attract employees. The nature of our business requires daily visits from our clients and consultants for meetings of up to 30 persons that can last a half a day or longer. We already co-exist with the Townhouse Restaurant's heavy traffic during the lunch hour, and our clients often arrive at meetings stressed out from circling the block for parking. (The addition to the neighborhood of the bike rental stations has not helped the situation.)

Our staff size averages 65 persons and the majority of them commute from beyond the city. We encourage commuting and offer incentives for those able to do it. But it is no secret that public transit in Emeryville is challenging, with a shuttle from MacArthur BART running too infrequently to satisfy commuters' schedules. We designed our facility with on-site parking off Beaudry Street, but in order to be in keeping with the residential scale and character of Beaudry, our lot can only accommodate a limited number of vehicles. Our employees therefore need to hunt for parking blocks from our office, and repeatedly run to feed a meter, a situation that would negatively impact productivity and be a detriment to our hiring success.

Sincerely yours,



Dan Wetherell
CEO, Ratcliff Architects