

For Immediate Release
June 6, 2023

On Friday, June 2 the first 50 signatures of an initiative petition to repeal the winter overnight parking ban were filed at City Hall. Paperwork organizing a ballot question committee to the same effect was also filed, with former Ward 3 at-large City Councilor Jim Cote as chairman and Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council President Jeremy Freudberg as co-chair and treasurer.

Newton's winter overnight parking ban is outdated, unnecessary, and exclusionary. It presents a huge burden to households with more than one working person, multigenerational households, disabled and/or elderly people, and generally people of lesser means. Leaders of the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments have stated that the ban is unnecessary -- and we proved it during the early COVID years. For those who see the current ban as a way to achieve goals related to climate and biking, these goals can still be met but through more direct methods which would also be fairer and more effective. When it comes to the potential nuisance and/or danger of parked cars, Newton already has an ordinance that prohibits parking in a manner that obstructs passing traffic, and a Traffic Council which analyzes width, abutting uses, and other factors to determine the appropriateness of seasonal regulations, one-sided parking, parking permits, and other solutions for specific streets.

It is unfortunate that the City Council has been reluctant to take up this important issue. While it is somewhat common for petitions of 50 signatures to be filed to trigger a public hearing on various important issues, we are aiming bigger. Our goal is 10,000 signatures -- enough for a binding question on the November ballot. We are truly a grassroots effort and eager to get out into the community.

Learn more and find out how to get involved at <https://www.repealparkingban.org>