

Dear friends,

Mark your calendar! This Wednesday, October 4, the Public Safety & Transportation Committee of the City Council will meet to debate repealing the parking ban. This meeting is the direct result of last month's submission of our initiative petition with more than 6,000 signatures (a step along the way to getting on the ballot). We've been informed that a proposal to *suspend the parking ban as a trial for 2 years* may be floated at this meeting. This trial is only on the table because of the movement we have built! While the prospect of relief (even if only temporary) is exciting, we will be following closely to ensure that the trial has appropriate parameters, and of course will continue to advocate for the parking ban to be truly a thing of the past. We need your help:

- 1. Join the Zoom this Wednesday, October 4 at 7pm: Agenda You can have your camera off and don't even need to be sitting at the computer! Just change your profile photo and/or background to indicate your support for repealing the ban. (Send us a note if you don't know how to do this.) We need to pack the room so please make sure that all of your friends and family members join, and that you use multiple devices per household.
- 2. Written comment in advance of Wednesday's committee meeting: Please write to <a href="mailto:citycouncil@newtonma.gov">citycouncil@newtonma.gov</a> (and send a copy to <a href="mailto:repealparkingban@gmail.com">repealparkingban@gmail.com</a> too, if you'd like) with your thoughts on why repealing the ban is important, the success of our movement, and whether or not it makes sense to suspend the ban on a trial basis. (Please include the docket number #319-23 in the subject line.)

We know that many of you are wondering if our question will appear on this November's ballot. Unfortunately, we still have a deficit of about 1,000 signatures, and, more critically, are also contending with an apparent statutory deadline for printing the ballot. **We must share the profoundly disappointing** 

news that our chances of making it onto this year's ballot are slim to impossible. But we know that our movement is strong: the evidence is how many people sent in signatures without even being asked, or returned door hangers or other postcards without hesitation, or were otherwise just so thrilled to hear about our endeavor. We are absolutely committed to a ballot question and to bringing this process to completion – which means you'll still see our team around collecting signatures!

Thanks again for your support!

Best,

Jeremy Freudberg and Jim Cote

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## **Vote Yes to Repeal the Winter Overnight Parking Ban**

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