

Eau Claire City Council Statement • June 23, 2025

I am Deb Marshall and have resided at 315 Riverfront Terrace for 15 years, as you all likely know by now. I have prepared an update on the situation in the Galloway Street parking ramp. We continue to have scofflaws entering the ramp, speeding around in a very unsafe manner, and making A LOT of noise. I would again welcome y'all to come spend an evening with us to see first-hand the problems that continued uncontrolled access to the ramp has caused. They continue because of people who are not using the ramp for its intended purpose of parking.

We STRONGLY encourage that the CIP budget you are considering tomorrow include expenditures to research and install PAID controlled-access use of the ramp. In addition to reducing the number of police calls, it will also generate revenue and reduce (if not eliminate) the need for on-site parking enforcement. We hate to call the police, but continue to do so, as it's our only option right now.

Two weeks ago, I reported on the interventions of closing off the 4th floor and the installation of a very small number of speed bumps. Closing off the 4th floor helped some to start with, but now activity is happening on the 3rd floor instead, and additionally the lights are not working. The speed bumps have unfortunately been a complete flop. The ramp has 2 center up-ramps and 6 flat straight-aways (one on each of the 3 floors) for a total of 8 lanes. There are (were) 3 pairs of speed bumps on each of the two center up-ramps located at the beginning, middle, and end of each up-ramp, for a total of 6 pairs. Of those 6 pairs, half of them have had one of the bumps removed, nowhere to be seen. The problem is that they do NOT go wall-to-wall, so they are very easy to get around, especially at night. HOWEVER, the bigger problem is the 6 other straight-aways that have NO speed bumps! THREE-QUARTERS of the ramp lanes are WIDE OPEN to speeding and exhibition driving. The paltry 6 pairs of bumps that were installed are not *nearly* enough to deter this behavior. Gluing them down does not prevent them from being removed with a crowbar.

Dave Solberg suggested that motion-detected gate arms be installed at each of the turn-around points on each level. There are three problems with this. First, it's like a starting gate for racing from one level to the next, which encourages fast and loud take-offs (unless there are wall-to-wall speed bumps, too). Second, they would need to go across the entire expanse of the lane, including into parking spaces, which seems unwieldy. Third, if you were concerned about people driving through gates or vandalizing them before, this just provides more opportunity. Are the cameras good enough to get license plate numbers to prosecute vandals?

Just so you know. we have generated media attention with this issue now and will be speaking with a few different outlets, as well as mounting a concerted effort to ensure residents voices are heard. We hope that heightened awareness will prompt you to include this in this year's Capital Improvement Plan.

Thank you for your attention.



**Statement to City of Eau Claire Officials
and City Council Members
Regarding Galloway Street Parking Ramp**

Galloway Street Parking Ramp: It is the position of the Downtown Neighborhood Association that the City of Eau Claire should install a controlled-access parking gate system to the Galloway Street parking ramp. This system would:

- Ensure that every vehicle entering the ramp is there to park
- Ensure that the parking fee is collected for each vehicle entering the ramp
- Ensure that the parking citations are issued in a fair and consistent manner
- Reduce the need to call for police enforcement for actions of non-parking vehicles and scofflaws who violate rules for ramp use

It is our position that the City of Eau Claire should include funding for the research, installation, implementation, and maintenance of a controlled-access parking gate system for this ramp in the 2026 budget, and sooner if at all possible.

Approved by the DNA Board of Directors on June 3, 2025

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