

**Eau Claire City Council Meeting – Public Comment Period**  
**February 10, 2025**

Hello – I'm Deb Marshall and I've lived in the Phoenix Park area for almost 15 years, so have witnessed the city center's renaissance up close and personal. I'm also Chair of the new Downtown Neighborhood Association of Eau Claire (aka DNA of EC). I am here today to support the findings of the Parking Study recently completed, as well as to reiterate our resident's concerns about safety and noise in the Galloway Street parking ramp. I have four points to make today.

1. **ONE parking department:** We strongly support the parking consultant's recommendation to consolidate responsibility AND authority for the City's parking function into ONE department, preferably a city position (vs. contracted). Many of us have tried to address the safety and noise issues with the ramp over the past 4 to 5 years with various staff at the City and have seen first-hand the finger-pointing and confusion that has gone on between community and neighborhood services, engineering, police, and management. It has been quite frustrating to say the least.
2. **Funding:** The City uses around \$250K annually of taxpayer funds to support the deficit on its parking function since it does not generate enough revenue to cover basic maintenance, let alone capital improvements. Therefore, we support paid parking on the City's streets and ramps, and ESPECIALLY the recommendation to enforce fines and ticketing in the parking ramps on a 24-hour basis. The scofflaws who are causing all the safety and noise problems in the ramps continue to do so because THEY CAN. They don't pay and there are very few consequences. This includes those who are there for exhibition driving which is unsafe, illegal, and noisy, as well as the people who are regularly going up to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor for somewhat suspicious activities. Issuing tickets for those using the ramp illicitly sends the message that "YES we are watching" and will be a great deterrent to their desire to use the ramp for these activities – especially if some get their cars impounded for non-payment.
3. **Ramp Speed Bumps:** We still contend that strategically placed speed bumps on the turns and straightaways in the Galloway ramp are likely the least expensive and best first step in slowing things down and making it not nearly as much fun to joy ride there. We met with 5 city officials on December 9 and have not heard back from the engineering department yet on speed bump options, but in their defense, we need to follow up with them too. We want to work WITH the city to fix this safety problem.
4. **Residents as Ambassadors:** All of us that live downtown are also ambassadors for downtown. We all get questions from other City residents about what it's like to live here. This parking ramp issue, as well as the homeless issue, are the two biggest things that give us pause, and both are inseparably related to FEELING SAFE DOWNTOWN. We WANT to be great advocates for downtown Eau Claire, and need the City's support to do that.

Deb Marshall  
315 Riverfront Terrace #202  
715-379-3369