



SPOKANE
PUBLIC FACILITIES
DISTRICT

August 26, 2010

Joe Shogan
President
Spokane City Council
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Suite
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear President Shogan:

At the August 24th meeting of the Spokane Public Facilities District Board the following motion was considered and unanimously adopted by the Board:

“The Board opposes imposition of a City commercial parking tax and urges rejection of the proposal because it (a) is detrimental to business, community, convention center and entertainment interests, (b) interferes with BID assessments and (c) will drive residents and visitors away from downtown. Further, the Executive Director and Board representatives are empowered to work with City on this issue.”

The District Board has full financial responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Spokane Arena, INB Performing Arts Center and the Spokane Convention Center. The imposition of this tax, by its very nature, jeopardizes the vitality that creates the appeal of downtown and reduces its attractiveness. While there is a stated intent to create new improvements to Downtown, there will be much damage done before that could be completed. As an example, retail and foodservice businesses will be damaged by the loss of customers due to higher parking rates. Anything that makes downtown less attractive to event attendees, conventioners, visitors and residents could have a very negative effect on the District Facilities and reduce the ability to maximize the positive impacts of these important economic engines.

The Board has determined that its facilities can be exempted from the parking tax, and has drafted a resolution in anticipation of your action. But we first supported the above referenced motion due to the potential overall negative impact on the downtown core, and with the hope that we would not have to act through our own legislative process to protect the interests of the District.

We look forward to further discussions. We hope you take our concerns, along with those of the majority of the Downtown community, to heart in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Twohig, CFE
Executive Director

Larry F. Soehren
SPFD Board Chair