

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Weldon Mattos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 11:45 AM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Serratto, Matthew; Blake, Kevin; Shelton, Delray; Echevarria, Fernando; Perez, Bertha; Ornelas, Jesse; boyles@cityofmerced.org
Subject: N Street parking plans

Mayor Serratto and Councilmembers

I joined with my wife in her email to you yesterday regarding N Street parking plans. I want to express my further concerns.

Why wasn't the need for parking addressed at the planning and project approval stage for recent downtown projects (UC, Tioga, El Capitan)?

How many parking spaces will be gained by the destruction of the historic and scenic palm trees and median? Does this even begin to address the parking needs for current and potential future downtown development? Would it make more sense to build a parking structure on the City owned parking lots on the north side of 16th Street between M and N or the lot on the west side of N Street between 18th and 19th? These two areas already are designated for parking and no historic or cultural assets would be destroyed by placing parking structures at one or both of these sites. Rather than apply a small bandage to a major issue why not do at this time the long term planning that appears was absent from the planning for the above improvements?

Aside from this practical concern I ask that every member carefully consider the role history and aesthetics have to the quality of life in Merced. Why is it that in other countries great efforts are made to preserve heritage and history but in our country it seems the past has little if any value for the future? While not exactly comparable, consider the efforts made to reinforce and preserve the Coliseum and Forum in Rome, the Medici Palace in Florence, and historic structures and features in many other countries? While it is true their history is much older than ours, what would the world be if these treasures had been destroyed for a perceived "higher and better" use?

A society and culture is defined by more than it's economic vitality, which while important, should not be a basis to destroy what our ancestors deemed important to enrich the lives of the members of the society and culture at large.

Weldon J. Mattos Jr. (Buzz)

[REDACTED]

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]