



August 7, 2020

Mr. Drew Havens
Town Manager
Town of Apex
73 Hunter Street
PO Box 250
Apex, NC 27502

Dear Mr. Havens:

The Apex Downtown Business Association (ADBA) appreciates the Town Council's and Town employees' efforts in the implementation of the "parking-to-dining" program that we proposed and encouraged back in May. In our letter of May 23rd, we also recommended that the program be evaluated after 60 days to ensure it is having the desired results. We believe the time is now upon us to make changes to the current program.

As you are aware, we are not where we expected to be, at this juncture, relative to the Governor's phased reopening approach. At the time of Town Council's approval and the parking-to-dining layout envisioned by the Town, we expected to move to Phase 3 prior to implementation of the program. With the Governor's actions extending Phase 2, this has left us with a number of closed parking spaces not being utilized as the Town envisioned in its layout and implementation. With the Governor's most recent action, we will remain in Phase 2 until at least September 11th, thus likely resulting in these closed spaces being underutilized until that date.

Some downtown retail businesses have reported a decrease in foot traffic downtown since the installation of the water barricades and closure of the parking spaces. We realize it difficult, if not impossible, to quantify the effect of the parking closures on downtown foot traffic especially in light of the current Covid-19 pandemic and the extreme heat we have been experiencing. Nonetheless, we believe now is the time to modify the current parking-to-dining program given it is not being fully utilized as envisioned by the Town and because of the Governor's recent actions extending Phase 2 to almost the end date of the approved parking-to-dining program.

The ADBA is, therefore, requesting that the Town modify the current parking-to-dining program. As the Town designed the initial layout taking into consideration public safety and other issues, we request the Town to develop several modification proposals for our review and input to include the reopening of some currently closed parking spaces. We have reviewed the Town Council's action at its June 2nd, 2020 meeting approving the parking-to-dining program and

believe there is some flexibility in their action to allow modifications to the current program without further action on their part.

The ADBA appreciates your consideration of this request and looks forward to providing our input to any modification proposals to make this a successful program. Thank you also for your guidance on this issue.

Sincerely,

Shane Reese
President
Apex Downtown Business Association

Cc:

Shawn Purvis, Assistant Town Manager

Colleen Merays, Downtown and Small Business Development Coordinator

Mayor Gilbert

Mayor Pro Tem Dozier

Council Member Killingsworth

Council Member Gantt

Council Member Stallings

Council Member Mahaffey