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Subject:	New Parking Meters
Date:	Thursday, November 29, 2018 4:55:02 PM

Dear Mayor Casavant, City Councilors, and Mr. Bennett,

I was shocked today when I saw the photo posted by the City showing the new parking meter. Councilor Belanger was adamant last week that a kiosk is not a meter, that they are different, but if that is the case, then why do our new “kiosks" say “Instructions to pay meter” on the front? Does this refer to another device somewhere in the parking lot? It can’t possibly refer to the “kiosks” because those are not meters, correct Councilor Belanger?

How can you look at the residents of this City with a straight face and tell us we are not getting parking meters, when that is exactly what the City installed? The City blatantly violated the 2014 referendum by installing parking meters in the greater downtown Biddeford area. The label on the parking meter in the City’s photo even says “Downtown.” What the City did was the same as telling the residents, and specifically the voters, that you don’t give a damn about what we want and you will do whatever you want to do. I am sick to my stomach thinking about how brazenly the City defied the voters with the installation of parking meters.

You can play with words all you want, but the fact is the City just did exactly what you said it would not do. To the Councilors that opposed this blatant disregard of the people’s voice, I thank you. You have demonstrated your honesty and respect for the voters of this City. To the Councilors that voted to violate the referendum and essentially say that you do not care what the voters decided and that you are above the law, shame on you. How dare you claim that these are not meters or that they do not violate the referendum? How dare you lie to all of us? How can you sleep at night after a council meeting when you lie straight to our faces?

As the Council, you have the opportunity to fix this. You can show the voters that you respect them and their voice and you can end this nonsense now. If the City will agree that it installed parking meters in the greater downtown Biddeford area, I am willing to drop my lawsuit. The only condition would be a letter from the City stating that unless a citizen’s referendum overturns the 2014 referendum, then the City will not attempt to install meters or charge for parking in municipal lots, structures, or on the streets in downtown, which would be defined by the maps the City promoted for the parking lots.

The stated reason for the parking meters was to take the burden off the property taxpayers of maintaining the lots. Based on the median home value in Biddeford of $265,100 and the percentage of property taxes that Mr. Bennett stated goes to maintaining these lots (.05 cents per $1,000), the median taxpayer burden is a whopping $13.25 a year to maintain the lots. How is $13.25 a year more of a burden than $780 a year? It only takes me parking for 6.5 hours a year to match my annual tax burden.

This is your opportunity to do the right thing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jason G. Litalien
8 Sapphire Dr.

Downtown
PLEASE TAKE RECEIPT
INSTRUCTIONS TO PAY METER
ENTER
ENTER LICENSE PLATE NUMBER, THEN PRESS GREEN BUTTON
PAY
CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ONLY!
INSERT CARD FACE UP AND REMOVE QUICKLY
PRINT
PRESS GREEN BUTTON TO COMPLETE TRANSACTION AND PRINT RECEIPT
A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W X
Y Z
Backspace
0 1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9
INSERT CARD