



Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: Motion Entering into a Lease Agreement for Public Parking at 105 Laurel Avenue

Purpose: To enter into a lease agreement for public parking at 105 Laurel Avenue.

Department: Economic Development

1. **What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**

Several structural and historical factors shape who benefits from or is burdened by public parking. Public parking often assumes car ownership as a baseline. Lower-income residents (including many BIPOC households and service-sector workers) face higher proportional costs for vehicle ownership, parking fees, and fines. Rising housing costs and displacement may have pushed many lower-income residents farther from downtown, increasing reliance on driving to access jobs, services, and cultural spaces—yet parking supply and pricing may not be designed with these residents in mind. Traditional parking policy often centers the needs of business owners and visitors over workers, renters, or residents without political influence. This can reinforce inequities in who is prioritized in public space.

2. **Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?** Experiencing burden may include: residents without cars receive no benefit from free parking but still bear the opportunity cost of land dedicated to cars instead of transit, sidewalks, or public amenities and residents in neighborhoods adjacent to downtown from spillover parking from visitors and employees can crowd their streets. If the action is not passed: small businesses may be burdened as customers may struggle to find short-term parking.

3. **Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?** Experiencing a benefit may include: car-owning households, workers who drive, and visitors who can stay as long as they want. Experiencing a benefit if approved: residents in downtown neighborhoods as spillover is reduced, people with disabilities, small businesses, and downtown workers. Experiencing a benefit if the item is not passed: residents without cars receive no benefit from free parking.



4. **What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?** Opportunity costs as free, unlimited parking prevents revenue generation for new development and takes funding opportunities away from alternative transportation improvements.

5. **What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future?** *NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.*

The Department has not undertaken any additional mitigation steps as of yet. To address unintended consequences, future public parking acquisition may lean on purchasing or lease parking in existing parking structures to allow for better use of surface parking areas.



Climate Action Pocket Questions

Title: Motion Entering into a Lease Agreement for Public Parking at 105 Laurel Avenue

Purpose: To enter into a lease agreement for public parking at 105 Laurel Avenue.

Department: Economic Development

1. How will this action impact municipal or community greenhouse gas emissions?

This action will not reduce or increase greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Please explain.

The town currently leases this parking lot, so to continue to lease the property for this use will not reduce or increase current greenhouse gas emissions.

3. How will this action impact the Town's environment?

This action does not change the current environmental impact.

4. Please explain.

There is no significant change from the current environmental impact in the town. Environmental impacts from public parking may include additional stormwater runoff and heat island effects.

5. How is your department planning to mitigate any climate or environmental impacts? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.

While this is a small lot, there may be opportunities for new plantings to help mitigate any stormwater runoff.