

From: Andrew Fischer <andrew.fischer25@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Select Board Meeting February 11th, Warrant Article Hearing
Date: February 6, 2019 at 3:56:00 AM EST
To: Fran Reidy <FReidy@town.arlington.ma.us>

Dear Selectmen,

Thank you for your time considering the Vote/Library Parking Costs.

The parking charge should be eliminated for several reasons:

First, it simply violates the sensibilities of most Arlington residents. I know this because I hear so many people speak of it. Other than town officials, I have never heard anyone speak well of it.

Second, to charge for library parking violates the Bill of Rights of the American Library Association.

Below is an excerpt from the ALA Library Bill of Rights.

Principles Governing Fines, Fees, and User Charges

Article I of the *Library Bill of Rights* states:

Library services that involve the provision of information, regardless of format, technology, or method of delivery, should be made available to all library users on an equal and equitable basis. Charging fees for the use of library collections, services, programs, or facilities that were purchased with public funds raises barriers to access. Such fees effectively abridge or deny access for some members of the community because they reinforce distinctions among users based on their ability and willingness to pay.

Here is the link to the American Library Association:

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/economicbarriers>

Of all places, I feel that the library is one place where we ought to strive for the ideal of an egalitarian society. The profit produced by the library parking metered system is but a tiny fraction of the Town Budget. We can afford to be generous with regard to the library, and we can afford to strive for a system which does not **"reinforce distinctions among users based on their ability and willingness to pay."**

I look forward to further discussion with you.

Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Fischer