

# Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

*"The Nation's Summer Capital"*

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February 12, 2019

City of Rehoboth Beach Mayor and Commissioners  
Rehoboth Beach City Hall  
229 Rehoboth Ave.  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Dear Mayor & City Council,

The Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce was delighted to hear about the newly proposed plan to build a parking garage behind the fire station in the heart of Rehoboth Beach. Collectively, we would like to express our firm support for additional parking in the City, as it would alleviate several issues stemming from the current perception of a lack in parking. Furthermore, we applaud the manner in which this plan is being proposed, through a public-private partnership which would eliminate cost to the taxpayers and take pressure off the City to solve this problem independently.

From the perspective of the business owner in Rehoboth Beach, there is a palpable anxiety surrounding the optics of the parking situation. Proprietors and restaurateurs alike feel that they are missing out on a local populace of customers, especially in the summer months given that the perception of limited parking keeps year-round patrons away.

When it comes to staffing for businesses, parking remains a huge point of contention. Employers face obstacles recruiting employees because of the cost of parking through either purchasing a permit, paying a meter, parking considerable distances away from the proximity to their establishments, or using public transit, which is available, but not ideal for scheduling. The parking garage provides visible, easy access for potential employees, and would be a beneficial addition for both employees and business owners alike.

For year-round residents in neighboring towns, access to Rehoboth Beach is seasonally restricted, and their frustrations around this issue are evident. Residents complain that infrastructure has not been properly planned to keep up with demand, effectively shutting them out of the town they love to patronize.

It is the Chamber's function to assure that business interest is represented, but as business owners, we also feel a responsibility to the communities and therefore the people we serve. We want our towns and cities to be places where people can enjoy their vacations, but not to the detriment of the vibrant year-round culture we rely on and enjoy. For all of the above-mentioned reasons, we feel that building this garage is in line with our mission of promoting business, tourism, and civic responsibility, and therefore an absolute imperative and top priority for the City of Rehoboth Beach.

This letter has been unanimously approved by the Full Board of Directors of the Rehoboth Beach – Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce: Chairman – Steve Montgomery, First Chair – Carrie Lingo, Second Chair – Vince DiFonzo, Third Chair/Treasurer – Susan Wood, Immediate Past Chair – Jay Becker, Directors: Marvin Carney, Jerry Esposito, Chip Hearn, Dale Lomas, Rob Marshall, Keith Martin, Mike Meoli, Bill Klemkowski, Mitch Resnick, Scott Swingle, Rachel Webster, Chris Weeks, Kay Wheatley, and Benjamin Gray

Respectfully,

Carol Everhart  
President/CEO Rehoboth Beach – Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce

CC: City of Rehoboth Beach City Manager, Sharon Lynn