



THE LANCASTER  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



Two-Time Recipient - 2003 & 2013

February 9, 2016

Lancaster City Council  
City Hall  
120 North Duke Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Re: Proposed East King Street Garage Expansion

Dear City Council Members,

For better or for worse, a downtown cannot survive without adequate parking. And, the City of Lancaster is fortunate to have long relied on the good judgement of the Lancaster Parking Authority to manage our City's parking needs, now and for the future.

Yet, to adequately manage downtown parking, tough choices have to be made and such is the case before City Council on the proposed expansion of the East King Street Garage. While we appreciate the pros and cons of the issue, the Executive Committee of The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry wishes to express our support for the Lancaster Parking Authority's East King Street Garage Expansion.

The proposed expansion is an essential component in planning for current and future economic development. This area of downtown Lancaster currently has multiple projects being developed nearby and having parking is critical for their future success and the area's ongoing development. The expansion will ensure that visitors and the downtown workforce are served and, in turn, can continue to fuel the City of Lancaster's ongoing economic resurgence.

Further, we appreciate the due diligence the Parking Authority has done to assess other options and justify their decision to proceed on this site, a site they have owned and planned expansion on since 2005. When evaluated against all other options, the decision to expand the East King Street garage simply makes economic sense, strategic sense and, in so doing, serves the best interests of the City as a whole.

While we recognize and empathize with the interests of the surrounding neighbors and continue to hope that some of their concerns can be mitigated as the project advances, we ultimately believe that this project as advanced by the Parking Authority is in the best interest of the whole of the City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Baldrige  
President & CEO