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FINAL REPORT

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

From: Downtown Parking Committee

To: Protection to Persons & Property Committee

Submitted by: Barry (Sam) Blowes

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Blowes Travel Ltd.

Blowes Stationery

Plovers

Resonance & Foster's Inn

Chamber of Commerce

City Centre Committee

Scotia Bank Data Centre

HOMEMADE DOWNTOWN PARKING COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That as soon as possible, The City of Stratford allow **FREE parking downtown on Saturdays year round**. No time limit. The committee feels that this would allow shoppers to come downtown, spend the day shopping and perhaps have lunch etc., without having to worry about their meter. Our research shows that several cities and towns around the area do this and it seems to work fine
 - (a) This would eliminate the need for a By-law Enforcement Officer.
 - (b) It would encourage local people to spend more time in the downtown area, thus helping local merchants.
2. That A.S.A.P. The City of Stratford change all the existing **TWO HOUR Meters to THREE HOURS or FOUR HOURS** and adjust the fines accordingly. The committee feels that **TWO HOUR** meters do not allow adequate time for local shoppers to get their hair done and fulfill appointments that sometimes require more than two hours. It also allows patrons of the Avon Theatre sufficient time to park their car, go to the show and return to their vehicle and not get a parking ticket.
3. That, (on a trial basis only) The City of Stratford provide **FREE PARKING** from November 1st, 2008 until April 30, 2009. This would be a **THREE or FOUR HOUR TIME LIMIT** strictly enforced. Also the fines for staying over the

THREE HOURS would be raised to \$ 15.00 or \$ 20.00 for violations.

The THREE or FOUR HOUR LIMIT would force the employers, employees to seek parking in such places as the Cooper Lot or perhaps even use the public transit to get to work.

Obviously this would reduce the revenue for the city but would be replaced by the following.

That (on a trial basis only) The City of Stratford as of May 1st, 2009 raise the parking rates to \$ 1.00 per hour throughout the downtown core. This rate would only be in place until November 1st, 2009, when the Free Parking would begin again.

The committee feels that if the parking rates are increased, that the city will earn more money from the parking and thus will have more funds to put towards the the purchase of additional employee/employer parking in the downtown core.

We recommend that The City of Stratford continue to seek additional parking in the core area, (similar to the Cooper Site) which is both convenient and cost effective.

Due to the pending arrival of the University Campus, this need certainly becomes even more important.

We further suggest that some research be done, to look into the possibility of somehow using the city buses to transport downtown employees and employers to work. This could help with the Greening of the city as well as raise some additional revenue

