

1 A RESOLUTION encouraging LEXPARK to collaborate with the Lexington
2 Fayette Urban-County Government with ample public and government input to ensure
3 that downtown parking rates and enforcement hours are the lowest possible.

4 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Lexington Fayette Urban-County Government transferred
5 parking operations to the Lexington & Fayette County Parking Authority, known as
6 LEXPARK; and

7 WHEREAS, LEXPARK is a quasi-governmental authority with board members
8 who are appointed by the mayor of the Lexington Fayette Urban-County Government;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, LEXPARK operates and maintains the various city-owned parking
11 lots, spaces, structures, and equipment associated with those parking facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, LEXPARK is a self-sustaining operation receiving no regular
13 financing from the government, and primarily receives its revenue from parking fees and
14 fines; and

15 WHEREAS, revenues brought in by LEXPARK are still below pre-pandemic levels
16 and have also been affected by land trades between the Lexington Fayette Urban-County
17 Government and the University of Kentucky; and

18 WHEREAS, LEXPARK's expenditures are affected by rising costs and the
19 necessary expenditure of funding to ensure safety and security of facilities; and

20 WHEREAS, on January 3, 2023, most parking rates were increased by LEXPARK,
21 and changes to the rate structure also included enforcement on weeknights and on
22 Saturdays, times during which parking was formerly free; and

23 WHEREAS, initial rate increases and enforcement hours were established with a de
24 minimis of public notice and input; and

25 WHEREAS, LEXPARK board members did listen to subsequent public input and
26 modified some aspects of their original fee schedule and enforcement hours, bringing
27 some relief to consumers; and

1 WHEREAS, the pandemic has caused the closure of many downtown businesses,
2 and many of the businesses that were able to stay open are still in the process of
3 recovering from pandemic-related revenue losses; and

4 WHEREAS, employers are still finding it difficult to hire workers, who, in some
5 areas downtown, may be spending even more than they were previously just to park their
6 vehicles for work, which can be a factor in their decision to work downtown; and

7 WHEREAS, there is the fear that increased parking costs will deter, or have already
8 begun to deter, customers, or will wholly drive customers away from the downtown area
9 to patronize areas where parking is easier to find, less expensive, or both; and

10 WHEREAS, on January 24, LEXPARK leadership attended an Urban-County
11 Council meeting where LEXPARK officials delineated their rationale for the
12 implemented changes, and business owners and citizens spoke against the present rate
13 and enforcement changes and presented a petition containing more than 2,000 signatures
14 of persons opposing the changes;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
17 ***Kentucky:***

18 ➔Section 1. The Senate, while acknowledging that LEXPARK is experiencing
19 pressures from finite income and responsibility for performing its function for the safety
20 and convenience of the visitors and citizens of Lexington's downtown, and furthermore
21 noting its prior cooperation toward listening to the citizens and elected officials of the
22 government, encourages LEXPARK to as soon as possible reduce its rates and
23 enforcement hours and collaborate with the citizens and government officials to find a
24 means of meeting its financial obligations and ensuring the safety and security of its
25 parking facilities with a minimum fiscal impact on the visitors and citizens patronizing or
26 working for downtown businesses with ample public and governmental input.

27 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this

- 1 Resolution to Senator Damon Thayer for presentation to the stakeholders.