

benjy's upper washington
5922 Washington Avenue
Houston, TX 77007
713-868-1131

To Whom It May Concern;

Please allow this note to serve as my endorsement of the proposed Washington Parking Benefit District (PBD). As the owner of a restaurant on Washington Avenue, I believe this PBD will serve to retain and improve the vitality of this corridor and its surrounding neighborhoods.

Restaurants and bars are an essential element of the Washington Corridor. I have owned and operated Benjy's on Washington for four years, and in that time I have witnessed the tremendous growth in our area, as well as the challenges we face in parking and traffic congestion.

Case studies of other parking benefit districts around the country have shown great success in implementing order to chaotic parking situations. **PBDs have also uniformly proven their ability to increase business as well as give back to the community.** In cities such as Austin, Washington DC, Seattle, and others, PBDs were shown to increase both turnover rates for parking spaces as well as revenues for businesses. Furthermore, the creation of a dedicated revenue source for community projects will benefit all stakeholders in the Washington area. I believe that finding a solution to the growing problems on Washington Avenue that balances both business and community needs in this way is to be lauded.

Also, in addition to my Washington location, I have operated Benjy's in Rice Village for nearly twenty years. The Washington PBD may prove to be a successful prototype for other neighborhoods in Houston that are plagued with congested parking, and I anticipate evaluating these ideas for their applicability to Rice Village.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to approve the proposal of the Washington Parking Benefit District, and I look forward to the benefits its implementation will bring to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjy Levit', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Benjy Levit