

August 10, 2018

To: Mayor Justin Nickels & Manitowoc City Council

Mayor Nickels and Council,

We were disappointed to learn of your decision to convert the unrestricted street parking around our 801 York Street building to restricted 2 hour parking. We request that you reconsider your decision, given the current parking on the north side surrounding our buildings is not adequate to support our near term growth. We view this decision as just the tip of the iceberg for what is and will become a worsening parking challenge for our business. We face challenges not only in terms of parking availability but also proximity to our facilities in inclement conditions, and related safety concerns tied to distance, street conditions and lighting. We cannot place a high enough premium on the safety and security of our employees.

Forefront Dermatology has been committed to revitalizing the downtown area. Since 2011, Forefront has expanded from 30 to nearly 350 employees, and from one to three buildings downtown. Our current buildings have capacity to add 200+ additional employees: 80+ employees at 801 York Street, 20 at 600 York St., and 100+ at 2. N. 8th St. We are actively working to fill 40+ open positions, and are poised for a 30 – 50% growth in our business over the next 12 months.

Many of our employees are currently parking in the vacated spaces at 600 York left by HFM, however, once this space is leased we will lose availability of approximately 80 parking spaces. This, along with our hiring and growth plans, will leave us with inadequate parking in the very near term.

Downtown parking remains a critical concern for our physician leadership and the employees that we count on each day to support our physicians and patients. However, with no prospects for long term parking solutions on the north side of downtown, and now the decision to strip away unrestricted parking around our building, the support of our presence downtown and in Manitowoc appears to have dissipated. Without the promise or plan for additional parking to support our growth in Manitowoc, we will be forced to look outside of Manitowoc to grow our central support services operations and out of necessity have already begun steps to evaluate options.

Again, we ask that you do not go through with your previous decision to convert to two hour parking surrounding our building where depicted below. And, we ask that you aid us in developing improved long term parking solutions. Help us to stay in Manitowoc and keep our community vibrant!

Sincerely,

Betsy Wernli, MD, President

Scott Bremen, CEO

Tricia Wagner, CIO

