



November 12, 2023

Dear Council Members and Mayor Lyles,

I am writing to ask you to **vote YES** on action item 10 of tomorrow's Business Meeting agenda: Chapter 14 Ordinance Revisions. The revisions will increase fines from \$25 to \$100 for cars parked on sidewalks, bike lanes, and streetcar right-of-ways.

On October 27, I sent you an email detailing exactly why Sustain Charlotte supports this increase. Here are the highlights:

- Because the current fines are so low, **there is little disincentive** for car drivers to avoid parking in these areas.
- People who walk and ride bicycles are the most vulnerable users of our streets, accounting for **33% of all traffic fatalities** in our city.
- Creating safe corridors for people of all ages, abilities, and transportation choices will help our neighbors feel comfortable on our streets and **more likely to use the infrastructure investments that are specifically intended to support non-car transportation**.
- These revisions move us in the right direction towards achieving our **50-50 mode-share goal**, established in the Strategic Mobility Plan.

But it isn't just us. Hundreds of Charlotteans support these ordinance revisions and increasing the fine. In order to capture the public's support, we distributed a petition less than two weeks ago that has already gathered **301 signatures and 162 comments**. You can [view the petition with all the signatures and comments here](#). Below are a few comments underscoring the need to raise the fine:

- Vote yes. Cars in bike lanes regularly force me into traffic in dangerous situations with cars going 4 times my speed. - *Chris O'Brien (28205)*
- Depending on where the violation occurs, \$25 is very close to the same price as a parking garage. How is this a deterrent? - *Nicholas Webster (28208)*
- I live in Elizabeth and bike to both my jobs uptown. There are often cars, including police, parked in the bike lane on 6th St. which at times forces me to go into oncoming traffic. Please let my safety be something I can worry less about. - *Patrick Cranford (28204)*
- Speaking as a delivery driver, keeping loading zones unobstructed is necessary for us to make deliveries in an efficient and safe manner without being forced to block the road. - *Jacob Unterreiner (28203)*
- We all deserve to be able to move around the city safely. This is one step I ask you to take to protect my fellow citizens, and me. - *Constance Proctor (28207)*



Advocating for Smart Land Use + Transportation Choices

As you can tell, your constituents are passionate about this topic and are eager to see infrastructure working the way it was intended. With your support, we can work together to create a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you for your service,
Shannon Binns