

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Monday, April 30, 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

MIDDLETOWN---- As most are now aware, on Friday, March 9, 2018 the City of Middletown (City) moved swiftly to protect its citizens, visitors and downtown patrons in light of safety risks that became evident from the rapid decline of the nearly 60 year old parking facility known as the "Arcade" located between Court Street and Dingwall Drive.

From that date forward, we have been working tirelessly to relocate impacted parkers, create more on-street parking opportunities and to expedite deconstruction of the crumbling facility.

To these ends, I am happy to report that we have made significant progress. As of today, demolition of the facility is underway by Middletown firms, on-street and permit spaces have been added and impacted parkers are being accommodated in the most reasonable ways possible.

Today, I can also offer the following more detailed update on our parking efforts:

- 1) After originally planning to make lower Court Street a 1-way to enable on-street parking, just yesterday, due to some collaboration and creative thinking by the Parking, Public Works and Police Departments we were able to create a plausible solution to add metered parking to the North side of the street yet keep lower Court Street 2-way.
- 2) We are now leasing approximately 75 spaces from a variety of valued community partners. We thank them for their willingness to work with us.
- 3) We spoke just late last week with the highest levels of the CT Judicial Branch to discuss usage of their garage and expect an answer in two weeks. I should note that the Judicial Branch has already been a gracious community member by allowing some 30 parkers into the garage last Fall.
- 4) 30 meter poles and their black decorative sleeves have been installed on Court St. and Melilli Plaza Drive. The poles will be elegantly covered and will have caps so when the meters come off, the caps can go on. It is and continues to be our best intention that these measures are temporary and that we intend to return Melilli to two-way traffic as soon as possible.
- 5) We are working with our Public Works crews to have all the right signage in place to direct visitors and downtown patrons. We are certainly happy to adjust or add more signage as necessary. We also plan to deploy the City's digital signs to the Corner of Court/Melilli to provide information during these changes. We also plan to deploy a police traffic officer for the first few days of the change to monitor traffic flow implications.
- 6) We are proceeding with the plan to add parking on DeKoven Drive. Through our plan, we estimate 30 spaces can be added along the western portion of DeKoven Drive.

- 7) Physical demolition started this weekend with fencing now up around the structure and power shut down and light poles down. First bites by heavy machinery of the structure have now also occurred.

I share all this to reinforce that the City continues to work expeditiously and hand-in-hand with all our community partners to alleviate the temporary crunch. We thank all of you for your patience and pledge to keep you updated through this portal.

Geen Thazhampallath
Parking Director
City of Middletown