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PRESS RELEASE

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Chamber notes progress, calls for more oversight

With the release of the Parking Solutions Task Force July report, the Somerville Chamber of Commerce announced its support for the amended parking solutions and called for continued oversight to help guarantee a clear, fair, and gradual implementation of new parking regulations.

The Traffic Commission's new regulations "will have very real impacts on employers, employees, residents, and visitors across the city" said Chamber Chair Ron Bonney of Bonney Automotive, a Task Force member. "The Task Force is seeking to mitigate these actions and address every specific implication that has been communicated to us through the city or the chamber. Some of these regulations affect the workweek population while others affect dining and nightlife. The key is to maintain the vitality of the local economy with a system that, while costing a little more, is user-friendly with more parking options. The City has been a good partner and is recognizing and responding to the needs of residents, business patrons, employees and employers." Bonney said.

Another Task Force member, Ray Zonghetti of Heartland Payment Systems, added "While phase one does not accomplish all the goals recommended by the task force, it is a great improvement over the initial regulations. The Task force and the City are limited on what can be done due to the limitations of the current parking meters. Phases two and three will address these limitations and with the continued support of the Task force and the City I am confident we will be able to phase in the goals made by the task force."

In addition to Bonney and Zonghetti, Chamber members serving on the Task Force include: Gregory Coughlin of Olde Magoun's Saloon; Richard Fraiman and Ian Judge of the Somerville Theatre; and Robert Gregory of Redbones.

The public is welcomed to follow the Chamber's updates on the parking regulations at www.somervillechamber.org The Chamber also welcomes comments from employers, employees, residents, and visitors.