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Parking in downtown Temple becoming an increasing problem



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Some downtown Temple business owners took a pledge to help solve what they're calling one of the city's biggest problems.

Finding a parking space downtown is a growing concern but the Chamber of Commerce and the city are looking to make a change.

Business in downtown Temple is steadily growing, but that growth comes with a price: parking.

So business owners took the pledge to park not in front of their businesses, but in other parking lots around downtown.

"There've been a couple of times when we decided to go someplace else because it was just almost impossible to find a spot," consumer Nicholas Vahalik said.

The re-occurring problem is why after four years of running the only salon downtown, Alicia Prado is planning to relocate.

"I think it's about time to go because we can't, a lot of our customers aren't finding places. And its not that they're needing places right out front, it's that they're having to park two and three blocks away," Prado said.

On a typical afternoon, there are no vacant spaces on 2nd Street, home to some of downtown's most popular restaurants, and consumers have their own ideas on how to fix the problem.

"Make the employees of all the buildings around here, have a special parking for them," consumer Michelle Laflamme said.

Other consumers said a parking garage might be the answer.

The Temple Downtown Development Alliance has its own solution.

"We had over 40 people taking the pledge, we had a judge to swear them in, so they would say, 'I promise I'm not gonna park right in front of my business or my neighbor's business or right in some of these valuable space'," TDDA Co-Chair Gregory Free said.

There are more than lots for business owners and their employees to use that have about 630 spaces.

Later this month, the city council will receive a proposal to conduct a parking analysis to determine what the city can do both now and long term to help fix parking problems.

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