

**Memorandum
Community Economic Development Department**



To: Thomas Thomas, City Manager
Subject: Amendment to the Great River Plaza Ordinance
Date: April 4, 2016

Avalon Thomas-Roebal of Renaissance Rock Island has been working with Modern Woodmen of America to purchase and pay for the installation of 15 bike racks in the downtown, primarily in locations within the Great River Plaza as defined by Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances. The provision of bicycle parking not only improves the bikability of the downtown, but also supports bike-related recommendations of the *Downtown Revitalization Plan*, including turning the Great River Plaza into a space that allows shared use by different transportation modes.

To legally enable the placement of bicycle parking within the Plaza, the prohibition on the use of bicycles on the Plaza must be removed. The following amendments are recommended to Chapter 8, Article VII, Division 6, Section 8-234 (d) and (j) of the Code of Ordinances to permit the use of bicycles and clarify other prohibited and permitted “vehicles” on the Plaza. For reference, the Chapter 8 definition of vehicle is: “any human, animal, motor, engine or gravity powered device for transportation.” The proposed ordinance amendment has been reviewed by City Attorney Dave Morrison.

Existing Code language:

(d) With the exception of uniformed police and auxiliary bike patrol officers in the performance of their duties, operation of bicycles, skateboards and other vehicles on the plaza shall be prohibited.

(j) No person shall operate, place or allow the operation or placement of any vehicle on the plaza with the exception of emergency vehicles, city vehicles used in connection with maintenance of the plaza, and vehicles used in the transportation of infants and the handicapped.

Replacement language:

(d) No person shall roller skate, in-line skate, roller blade or skateboard on the plaza. All other human powered and Americans with Disabilities Act vehicles are permitted, including bicycles and vehicles used in the transportation of infants and children.

(j) No personal shall operate or park any motor vehicle on the plaza with the exception of emergency vehicles or city vehicles used in connection with maintenance of the plaza.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council approve the Amendment to Chapter 8, Article VII, Division 6, Section 8-234 of the Code of Ordinances and that an Amended Ordinance be prepared to include the above replacement language.

Submitted by: Jeffery A. Eder, Assistant City Manager/CED Director
Brandy Howe, AICP, Urban Planner

Approved by: Thomas Thomas, City Manager