

Public Comments from Petition: Oppose Underground Parking Garage in Historic Victorian District. As of July 28, 2025

1. "DO NOT PUT THIS UNDERGROUND GARAGE HERE, NO ONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WANTS IT. THIS IS A HISTORIC AREA, SURROUNDING ONE OF SAVANNAH'S PRIMARY GREEN SPACES AND THIS GARAGE WOULD BE A HAZARDOUS EYESORE THAT WOULD RUIN THE PEACE, SAFETY AND HISTORICAL INTEGRITY OF THE AREA. WE HAVE PLENTY OF PARKING GARAGES AND OPEN LOTS AND STREET PARKING DOWNTOWN!!!! OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS NOT AN OPPORTUNISTIC PLAYGROUND FOR A CASH GRAB FOR SOMETHING THAT IS NOT NEEDED. RESPECT THE CITY, RESPECT THE PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY PAY TAXES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEY WANT TO RIP UP."
2. "This project would exacerbate a chronic flooding issue west of Forsyth Park and endanger the foundations of the historic homes that define this neighborhood. Additionally, the parking garage would encourage increased traffic and congestion in one of the last authentic downtown neighborhoods occupied by Savannah locals that actually live and work in the city."
3. "Please listen to your community and your neighbors. Please help protect the history and beautify of Savannah that those before us have worked so hard to preserve."
4. "Not only will it change the integrity of the city, but it seems like a flood hazard given the poor infrastructure of Savannah currently. We have far bigger issues in this city than parking. Perhaps again the flooding, housing, or even the crime could be addressed first? I would much rather my tax dollars go towards these things to help better our struggling city. Tourist parking is not a concern for the majority of the citizens of Sav. We need our streets to not hold water after 5 minutes of rain...."
5. "We strongly oppose this proposed underground public parking garage in the historic Victorian district near the corner of West Park Avenue and Whitaker Street. It would exhibit a total disregard of the property owners and residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Also, we do not want added traffic in this area."
6. "We haven't even figured out how to truly combat the issue of how often we flood and we think throwing a parking garage in the mist of that is wise?"
7. "The proposed underground garage and the development associated with it are completely out of character with the historic neighborhood that I have called home for over 30 years. As a tax paying elderly resident, I oppose it 100%."
8. "I respectfully urge the City of Savannah to Immediately halt all plans for this underground garage. Prioritize the safety and preservation of our historic district. Identify and pursue

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alternative solutions for parking that respect the neighborhood's historic and environmental integrity."

9. "It would be highly irresponsible to construct an underground parking garage right next to the largest ground water source for the city of Savannah. Please realize the disruption this would cause to the ground water's safety and efficacy, as well as the potential for a disaster to occur involving the groundwater pump, civilian's personal vehicles and belongings, private property, and god forbid, human lives. Please find another place to safely build a more structurally sound underground garage that won't interfere with the city's ground water well system, or better yet, a safe space for an above ground garage— perhaps at the empty lot on the corner of Drayton and Henry. Thank you for reading my input and for taking good care of our city."
10. "Stop the plan for garage!"
11. I live right behind the proposed spot for this garage. The construction of this would devastate the entire neighborhood and would have lasting effects on the district as a whole."
12. "Oppose garage"
13. "The proposed parking deck is packed with problems including: traffic congestion; safety 24\7; trash; inadequate entrance and exit; pedestrian safety; focal point for gang activity; noise for nearby residents and more. I oppose this parking deck!"
14. "NO to proposed underground parking lot!"
15. "I am a native of Savannah and am appalled that the city is even considering this fiasco."
16. "In the 1970s, as a consultant to the City of Savannah and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office I conducted the first historic resource survey of what was then called the South Victorian District, encompassing this area. I am delighted to see that this district is now being recognized for its historic significance as a largely intact part of the continuum of historic architecture, urban design and cultural development of our city in the first half of the 20th Century. Now that those resources are becoming fully appreciated by the public - citizens and visitors alike - it is especially disturbing that this site, which provides context for Forsyth Park is being threatened by a development of inappropriate use, scale and design that will have a significant adverse impact on the city and this neighborhood."
17. "We go down to Forsyth Park every weekend and don't want to see a Parking lot in that area."
18. "As a Savannah native of many generations, it seems to me grossly insensitive to the layout and evolution of the City to build an underground garage in what is a true

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neighborhood. Many more cars on our narrow streets, large constantly running noisy ventilation system, like at Ellis Square garage and constantly running pump. And the agony of construction, large earth moving equipment with constant horrid beep when in reverse and worse assaults to the residents."

19. "Who has investigated the flooding problem with underground parking in our city? Just another ill-conceived idea."
20. "I have received a response from Councilwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, which I appreciate. However, her response refers to helping "those most directly impacted." I find this to be ambiguous and would appreciate some clarification. As a Savannah native and resident who does not, however, live in this neighborhood I still feel directly impacted by the destruction of my city's historic resources and their replacement by incompatible development. Who is Councilwoman Wilder-Bryan pledging to assist? Please clarify. Thank you."
21. "Do the people building this parking garage not know that it will be flooded when the first heavy rain hits the neighborhood? I wouldn't park my car in there unless I was trying to commit insurance fraud."
22. "Absolutely Not! Destroying the charm of the Victorian District is a HORRIBLE idea. This must be stopped. We have the Dot & other transit in place. No parking garage for Forsyth."
23. "We don't need more parking. Please don't be lame."
24. "A shuttle service would be better instead of parking garage."
25. "I cannot even begin to imagine the chaos something like this would bring to the intersection of Whitaker and West Park. I am getting really tired of the way the City Council allows these kinds of projects which, no, Mr. Johnson, are NOT helping the city. They are destroying its character. I live downtown, and am brokenhearted by what is going on, the obliteration of the Historic District bit by bit. What is wrong with you people?"
26. "Savannah isn't Disney land. Help out your people before the visitors"
27. "No"
28. "I can't believe the city council decided that this was ok. I am sick to my stomach. There is already enough traffic as is so I'm not understanding why y'all would add more. It will only make it busier, congested, & more dangerous for pedestrians."

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29. "I may not live here at the moment, but my plans are to move come the first of 2026. I've been coming to Savannah for some time now and understand the importance of preserving the cultural history that this great city holds. Also, I would be concerned with water, drainage, and potential flooding. Please reconsider this venture."
30. "This proposed development endangers historic homes and a way of life for the community."
31. "Please listen to the residents of this area and stop this project."
32. "Very much against building the parking garage and multistory building at Park and Whitaker Streets!!"
33. "I understood that the garage would not proceed because the new build had been withdrawn. I expected to be able to attend meetings before the present buildings were to be pulled down. I am very disappointed."
34. "I am against the placement of the parking garage."
35. "This area should remain available to local citizens of the community especially our senior citizens, children and others who want to exercise and take care of their health."
36. "Underground parking garage is a threat to historic preservation and a disrespect to the community"
37. "STOP this MADNESS. Do NOT allow this travesty...OR the high-rise buildings. This is wrong on every level!"
38. "As neighbors, we adamantly oppose the underground parking garage."
39. "I am opposed to underground parking on Whitaker/Park"
40. "I'd like the members of our city council to walk up and down the staircase of our State Street Parking Garage to get a true experience of just how despicable a Savannah City parking facility could be. It is a trashy and unhealthy place to navigate due to urine odors and discarded fast food/garbage wrappers. In addition, the elevator has been inoperable for a very, very long time."
41. "Since the city has an absolutely failing track record for maintaining parking garages, the Victorian district residents are opposed to this project."
42. "Please protect our historic district. It has continuously been "sold" to the tourism industry and over-extended to accommodate hotels, massive apartment buildings (full of

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short-term vacation rentals), along with allowing SCAD their own rules to also over-extend our downtown. Please stop this one project to keep our historic district the quaint community locals love. There aren't many left downtown so please listen and take action for us."

43. "Put parking where the old Sears store was instead"
44. "It doesn't seem necessary. I never have problems finding a spot on the street."
45. "This needs to be voted down. It's not a good idea."
46. "No underground parking garage at Forsyth"
47. "This is very close to my home, and the noise is going to be extremely loud in the mornings and at night"
48. "No one should just be able to expand whatever they want to just because they can in a sensitively historic area. More than likely it's just to make more money."
49. "Bone-headed decision at best to build this underground parking garage. We don't want it!"
50. "Halt all plans for underground parking off Waldburg/Victorian District."
51. "Please hear our voice"
52. "The City MUST listen to the citizens before ANYMORE damage and devastation of quality of life occurs. STOP THIS OVERBUILDING!"
53. "I hereby OPPOSE the Underground Parking Garage in Historic Victorian District"
54. "This would be a total disruption of the quality of life for the people living near this project. We, the people, are important. Treat us accordingly."
55. "I lived at 911 Howard St for 3 years and it breaks my heart to know that the neighborhood could possibly be ruined by a parking garage. The streets are already overwhelmed and the last thing they need is more through traffic. I loved my time at 911 Howard and love the area. The last thing it needs is a parking garage!! "
56. "We, the undersigned, stand united in protecting Savannah's Historic Victorian District—from unnecessary development that endangers our history, environment, and community."

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57. "The structure is entirely unnecessary. Parking is a available and abundant. Historic downtown is preserved in its walkability and lack of cumbersome structures. The parks were built so people could walk leisurely through the city, which is how they function to this day. More cars, more structures, not only compromises Savannah's beauty and function, but directly contradicts the reason tourists come."
58. "I'm especially worried about chemical leaching and damaging to the well in Forsyth Park"
59. "No!!!"
60. "Our beautiful natural species of plants & trees are delicately hanging in the balance. Our trees are dying. Save our environment. Save our city. This is unnecessary!"
61. "Please don't build this garage"
62. "Don't ruin what's good about Savannah!"
63. "I completely agree that this would be a disaster!"
64. "Please act responsibly for the future of the Victorian District."
65. "I currently live downtown in the historic district and have been for 8 years."
66. "This would be a huge mistake to ruin such a charming area. This is such a lovely city & already so walkable. Please do not allow this to happen to our beautiful city."
67. "Stupid idea. Leave the park and surrounding area alone"
68. "We need to Preserve the integrity of our historic City. We need to minimize traffic and encourage public transportation, walking and bicycling. We need to start thinking like many European cities, like Paris, that are doing everything they can to minimize car traffic in their City as it is ruining the ambiance."
69. "This is not what historic Savannah nor Savannah residents need. It will cause too much traffic, and a ton of disruption during construction. We need roads fixed for flooding and natural disasters getting worse due to climate change. Not a huge hollow pit in the ground to gather water."
70. "Savannah doesn't need more buildings; it needs more care to the ones already there"
71. "Protect the only reason anyone visits this city! The history must be protected!"

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72. "People, residents & tourists alike come to Savannah for our beautiful Historic buildings and setting. NOT for parking garages. There comes a time in every city where indiscriminate growth becomes too much. Savannah is fast reaching saturation."
73. "We need to maintain the integrity of the historic district, the neighborhood feel of the area, and the needs of residents. Forsyth Park area is one of Savannah's Crown Jewels and we need to preserve it from development such as this."
74. "No. For historical and aesthetic reasons, and for residential quality of life, NO!"
75. "We don't need more development that will take away from the beauty and historical nature of Forsyth Park. Please stop with the unthinking development."
76. "There is no telling what would be found and how much damage would be done to existing structures if this project goes forward. We already have a drainage and flooding issue. I feel this will exacerbate this issue."
77. "I am angry and disappointed if the project goes ahead, especially since the developers have withdrawn their application."
78. "Now that the owners of these lots have withdrawn their planning application, it makes no sense for the consents to stand, and I urge the council to rescind the consents immediately."
79. "Historic preservation is important!! A moratorium on building in Historic and Victorian areas should be mandated!!"
80. "While I am no longer a resident of Savannah it is still my home, and I work every week in the historic district. It would be an absolute travesty to move forward with any project in the RESIDENTIAL SECTIONS of downtown Savannah that would degrade or destroy the beauty and tranquility for the residents of those areas. The leadership of Savannah should think long and hard about the short and long-term consequences of this and other proposals and do they truly benefit or enrich the people and communities which matter most."
81. "I vote no on the underground parking garage"
82. "The city is just doing this for money, with no consideration for the historic area and how this will impact everyone who lives around there."
83. "The Historic District hardly looks historic anymore. The Victorian District's vibe is already dimming. The area could be torn up for years. Victorian homes may not withstand the subterranean shock. What's next?"

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84. "Completely in agreement on all points. It is \$\$\$\$ over the lives of the people who live, work and tour this wonderful part of Savannah's history and daily life."
85. "Such a waste of resources"
86. "It's been proven many times that poorly executed traffic capacity increases, such as the planned a garage, have a significantly negative effect on traffic. Halt the plan."
87. "Serious Waste of Money and Destroying the Park's Healthy Environment. Don't do it."
88. "Oppose it for sure!"
89. "We need trolleys, not parking. Dt Savannah is a walkable town, and we need to build infrastructure to accommodate that instead of jamming in a few more parking spots for cars"
90. "Don't tear the heart out of the Historic district for financial gain."
91. "The city has consistently put its greed over its citizens. At what point will the mayor and the council and the MPC see that they are ruining out city?"
92. "I have friends that have business that the shaking from the digging with def effect. I've worked through that shaking downtown while Whitaker Garage and Perry Lane were built. Plus, the sewage and water lines are crumbling from age in the blocks around this site. The city refuses to be proactive about the 100-year-old lines. STOP HURTING LOCAL BUSINESSES!!!! Instead invest in infrastructure like the water and sewage lines, extending CAT service into non VRBO neighborhoods, more bike lanes, and safer streets."
93. "Much of Savannah's stormwater infrastructure is reportedly over 100 years old. Tunnels, drains, and pipes are outdated or in disrepair, and maintenance has historically lagged behind. The city continues to struggle to fund much-needed stormwater upgrades yet high cost entertainment (Enmarket Arena/Parking Lot) projects continue to move forward.

I am particularly concerned about the push for an underground parking garage, which seems like a recipe for disaster in a city that already floods regularly. Anything underground in a flood-prone coastal area will likely require major taxpayer investment not only to build, but to protect, maintain, and eventually repair.

Meanwhile, we've already seen tens of millions spent on the Enmarket Arena and its high-cost parking lot, while neighborhoods continue to suffer from recurring flood damage and infrastructure neglect. It gives the impression that the city is prioritizing tourism and entertainment over core infrastructure and the daily needs of residents."

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94. "Build sensibly according to the immediate neighborhood environment. Let's protect our environment."
95. "I oppose this measure."
96. "I work close by on bull street. The proposed location of this underground parking is awful. It's in a residential part of the neighborhood. While I don't deny that additional parking for the park would be beneficial, that location simply is not. Why can't we all agree the old Sears/health and human services abandoned building block is a better location. It has been abandoned and neglected for decades. It has street access on all sides going towards and away from downtown to serve the park and the growing Thomas square neighborhood. Our city needs to grow in a smarter way."
97. "No to underground parking"
98. "This is insane, where would you even build it we're so close to sea level??"
99. "Absolutely oppose the idea of a parking garage off of Forsyth."
100. "we don't need to build more infrastructure for cars in the victorian district, we need better infrastructure for people."