

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

ADDENDUM

Received: June 11, 2020 (after 9 a.m. – June 15, 2020 (2:00 p.m.)

June 15, 2020 Council Meeting

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sharon Finley (sfinley@exeter.edu) on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 09:29:40

address: 29 Cass Street

comments: I'm hoping you will consider the attached link to a series of EarthWatch online courses about Climate Change. There is also a plan in the offing to design an opportunity for citizen participation in pollinator studies and related concerns, right in their own homes and neighborhoods, during this pandemic.

<https://mailchi.mp/c5b9b8a20e63/enrolling-now-earthwatch-at-home?e=a7064ad329>

There are so many people who are still confined or nearly confined to their homes. Perhaps one or more of these online courses, or the free participation in the pollinator studies would ease the burden placed on us all. Much of what is happening is beyond our individual control, apart from actions to stay safe, secure and patient while scientists and doctors work to make our world less threatening.

If you have the time to take a look at this EarthWatch link, consider making it available to the citizens of our city.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Nancy Pearson (votencypearson@gmail.com) on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 11:53:03

address: 104 Lincoln Ave

comments: Dear Council,

Portsmouth, once the economic envy of the region, is in free-fall, and I'm sure you already know that businesses are closing their doors at unprecedented rates. In just one sector, nine restaurants have already closed, 2 more are expected soon. Action, bold action, is needed immediately. There are several efforts underway, spearheaded by residents, business and nonprofit leaders, to stop the hemorrhaging. Some are short term and tactical, some are long term, and complicated. How do I know this? Because over the last week I have been contacted by them. They need help. They need hope. They need action. They need a way out.

Some of you are aware that commercial properties count for nearly 50% of the property taxes in Portsmouth. If action is not taken immediately, and businesses continue to close at the rate they have, the next round of property valuations will be tragic. Commercial property values could plummet, leaving residents on the hook for 60%, 70%, or even more of the budget. No amount of budget cuts and line item cuts will help.

In the coming days you will hear ideas funneled through the task force. They represent efforts to draw people back into downtown, dine and shop outdoors, attend arts events, and look at a long-term strategic plan for small business rent relief.

Most of these proposals are fully, or nearly formed. All you have to do is listen, rely on city staff and community expertise, and approve.

There is no more time. This city can't wait for another two-hour meeting to discuss one outdoor dining permit. You must be ready to hear a lot of information, digest it quickly, and rely on the expertise of those who are bringing you these ideas.

One thing is certain. Nobody has done this before. No prototype is perfect the first time. Nobody knows exactly how the public will react. You must anticipate and allow for adaptation and adjustments along the way.

Stepping into the unknown is hard, but doing nothing, in this moment, is not an option. Now is the time for you to lead.

Best regards,

Nancy Pearson

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Emily Chadwick (portsmouthsmart21@gmail.com) on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 15:11:00

address: 79 Lois St

comments: Letter to the Editor, copied to city council and city manager June 11, 2020

Dear Editor,

The local community-based organization, Portsmouth Smart Growth (formerly PS21), wholeheartedly supports the Middle Street bike lanes. The bike lanes exemplify the smart growth principles of safe bikeable neighborhoods and infrastructure for a variety of transportation options. Portsmouth has shown leadership on bikeability: the Middle Street bike lanes are the only protected bike lanes in the state of New Hampshire.

The city continues to modify the bike lanes, based on data and feedback from the public. City staff - including Fire Chief Todd Germain, Police Captain Mark Newport, Parking and Traffic Engineer Eric Eby, Public Works Director Peter Rice, and Planning Director Juliet Walker -- all support the Middle Street bike lanes and have worked to address resident concerns. In fact, earlier this month the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee voted overwhelmingly to support the motion to endorse all the recommended changes to bike lanes from city staff and to send them to city council for approval. These modifications include limiting number of flex post bollards that are reinstalled (reduced from about 70 last year to 40), improving sight lines by removing on-street parking at key intersections, repainting portions of road markings, and reducing the posted speed limit to 25 miles per hour.

The introduction of the bike lanes followed a decades long public process at the city, state, and federal levels, with public input, vetting, and modifications throughout the process. The Middle Street bike lanes are an initial step of a citywide network of bike lanes according to the city's master plan. Any significant change to the Middle Street bike lanes will cost the city: a portion of the federal funding distributed by the state would have to be paid back, at a time where demands on our municipal budget are extraordinary.

One impact of the COVID-19 response is an increase of bike ridership. We see this as a silver lining that improves our community's health through individual physical activity and reduced auto pollution. The city should want to keep these new or returning bicyclists safe, especially since many of the less experienced riders are children. Protected bike lanes demonstrably improve safety for all users, and we expect additional data from city staff will confirm this as the season continues. Increased bike ridership also reduces traffic and demands for parking.

We look forward to our city council continuing to support the Middle Street bike lanes, and prioritizing rider safety. We thank city staff for their hard work addressing resident concerns.

Sincerely,

Emily Chadwick

President, Portsmouth Smart Growth board

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Donna Westbrook (dmwestbrook@comcast.net) on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 17:54:04

address: 76D Manor Drive

comments: To The Mayor, City Council, and City Manager,

So, I wrote an email to you all a few days ago, about creating a mandate for wearing masks in the city of Portsmouth. I wanted to write again to make another attempt to ask you to take another look at this request. I will start by talking about the fact that compromised people, the elderly, minorities and especially African Americans are all at a much higher risk of becoming infected. Please do not ignore this fact but do just the opposite, take it into complete consideration when deciding about revisiting a mask mandate. While some say that they care about the most vulnerable among us, I am not seeing a commitment to follow through on this with action.

Everyone is saying we need to learn to live with the virus because it isn't going away soon. Just this past week, Dr. Fauci from the NIAID said that this virus is his worst nightmare. That is quite a statement. Because this is something we need to learn to live with I think we need to learn to incorporate masks into our daily routine. Just as we would like to see the police incorporate the use of body cams in their everyday routine, for example. In wartime, especially WWII, the country came together for a cause greater than one person. This would be a civil defense strategy. Mandating masks protects the most vulnerable and it calls is to a higher purpose.

Should we come to the rescue of those downtown businesses only or should we come to the rescue of everyone in need. No one subset of people should be ignored for the benefit of another. But saving actual lives should always be top priority.

Alternatives to masks are wearing plastic face shields. No one needs to feel as if they are suffocating. As I stated in my previous letter, You have a unique opportunity to shape the mandate to the needs of all the people of Portsmouth. You have the opportunity as well to decide that President Trump's opinion on this and Governor Sununu's opinion on this need not tie your hands.

Please reconsider.

Donna Westbrook
76D Manor Drive
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jason Boucher (boucher.jason@gmail.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 08:50:01

address: 65 WIBIRD ST

comments: I support turning the top two levels of the Foundry Place Garage into a performing arts & cultural space for the summer months. We can have performers, musicians, restaurants, local retailers, and more set up shop and keep downtown somewhat thriving. I also support closing streets and sidewalks as long as emergency vehicles can still pass through safely. What's the hold up? At last 12 restaurants have already called it quits and that is brutal. It's also unnecessary.

We currently have a city government without a true leader and it's about to dismantle downtown forever. Time is of the essence. Won't you please help save local businesses?

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Claire Moffatt, Ten Thousand Villages (manager.portsmouth@tenthousandvillages.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 11:52:58

address: 87 Congress Streets

comments: Hello,

MY name is Claire Moffatt and I manage Ten Thousand Villages in Portsmouth. I am very concerned about the possibility of having so many streets closed for outdoor dining. This would inevitably kill my curbside sales as well as having customers load in their cars purchases that are too big and heavy to walk to their cars. I am also not equipped to have tables or rolling racks outside the store underneath a tent. I do not have the manpower or the payroll hours to do this. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ken Robbins (Ken.Robbins@Casella.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 13:16:21

address: 26 Sewall Road, Portsmouth

comments: I ride more than 2000 miles per year on my bike and am a lifelong resident of Portsmouth. I'm surprised the safety statistics haven't worsened since the Bike Lanes were put in. The crossroads are hazardous for riders and drivers because of sight line impacts from the cars parked away from the curbs. Push the cars back to the curb and paint in the bike lanes and we'll all be safer.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Christian Matthews (cmatthews@tutamail.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 13:24:19

address: Newmarket

comments: Dear Portsmouth City Council,

As millenials, we love visiting Portsmouth, parking on the outskirts of Town, riding our bikes around, and then grabbing a bite to eat and do some shopping. The fact that Portsmouth is the most pedestrian and bike-friendly town in the Seacoast is what makes us come and spend our money.

We urge you to realize that bicycle networks and amenities are and will continue to be a tourism draw. We also urge you to support the Middle St. Bike Lane project as it provides needed safety improvements for cyclists, and to improve and not remove it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christian Matthews and Nicole Gruet-Matthews

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Alice Schierberl (schrbraw@aol.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 13:43:59

address: 28 Sunset Rd

comments: I bike regularly in Portsmouth. The Middle Street Bike Path, though not perfect, improves bicycle safety and makes biking less anxiety producing. than before. I urge you not to sack the whole project. Make adjustments as recommended and keep the rest. The number of bicyclists and runners has increased and will continue so safety should be paramount

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Rob Capone (rob.capone@werebor.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 13:50:54

address: 250 Elwyn Road

comments: I am in support of keeping the bike lanes on Middle Street for several reasons:

- Biding on Middle Street is currently much safer (easier for cars to maintain minimum distance from bikers) and reduced lane width encourages drivers to drive the speed limit (myself included).
- Increased traffic along Middle Street during the summer is due in large part to tourists and non-Portsmouth residents, who need to be encouraged to slow down and pay attention to the road.
- Moving the bike lane to the driver side of parked cars will increase the possibility of being crowded out by passing cars, as well as increased risk of being doored (answer honestly... do you check your side mirror before exiting your car?)
- Changing the lanes back would require returning federal grant money (How would the Tax Payers Association feel about that?)

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Michael Derhammer (hagusmd@yahoo.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 13:56:54

address: 280 Thaxter Rd. Portsmouth, NH. 03801

comments: Dear Council Members,

Please preserve the Middle Street Bike path.

I urge you to listen to our Police, which say the bike path makes the street measurably safer.

I ask that you consider the cost of removing this lane. Much of the money to create the lane was grant driven, which would need refunding in addition to the actual cost of the removal labor.

I sat in on a very contentious meeting where the obvious hostility toward cyclists was unmistakable. The arguments I heard were:

1. The path is unsightly.
2. The path caused driver confusion.
3. The path caused difficulty in vision to drivers.
4. That the path was underused.
5. If people need to go slower post more Police.
6. If people need to go slower post more speed signs.

My response is:

1. The idea that walking on Middle street was a picturesque view is fraudulent. It has always been used like a second 95 By-pass.
2. Driver confusion is caused by people going too fast, and by poor drivers, not by the path. If someone cannot figure out how to drive they should not be behind the wheel.
3. People merging onto Middle need long views, because other motorists are going too fast, not because of the bike path. They are blaming the incorrect factor.
4. The meeting was in early March. think of how few people do ANYTHING outdoors in the Winter in New England. We have miles upon miles of little used sidewalks, but the people are not calling for those to be removed, because they are used to them, and because it benefits them. Additionally our snow removal system needs to transition from plows (which block cycling lanes and sidewalks) to throwers, which can remove snow, rather than indiscriminately mounding as plows do.
5. There was an officer at the meeting. I noticed because I bothered to thank him, and ask his opinion afterward, while none of the detractors did. They do not realize how few officers we have, and that there are dramatically more severe issues the police need to deal with.
6. If signs changed behavior we could post "Don't Steal", "Don't Sell Drugs" , "Don't Rape" signs and the world would be a better place. Signs do not work. Motorists will continue to drive irresponsibly. A separate lane does work.

While sitting in the meeting I saw our Town Seal, reminding us of the incorporation date of 1623. The streets and infrastructure of the town is the remnant of near 400 years of building. Though it has left us a beautiful town, it does not match the needs of the people who live here. Vehicular traffic, though useful, is unsightly. It divides neighborhoods and can be dangerous. Think of the changes in transportation Portsmouth has seen in 400 years. Vehicles will ebb, but people will always want a human powered means of transportation. The bike path is a reminder of this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by John Stephenson (editec@comcast.net) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 14:40:38

address: 197 Miller Ave. Portsmouth

comments: I hope you will remove the distracting lines and bollards, and restore Middle Street to its original condition. The current arrangement is confusing and dangerous. In the outgoing lane, there are three places where the travel lane takes a sudden 6' jog to the left. The result is that you encounter cars parked in the middle of the road - extremely dangerous! Most citizens of Portsmouth never asked for this. It was imposed on us by the "experts". After the last election, its pretty clear that the public wants this reversed. By the way - I ride a bike constantly. Not all bike riders support this arrangement.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Nick Tulloh (nicktulloh@comcast.net) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 15:36:59

address: 311 Newmarket Rd, Durham, NH 03824

comments: Please leave the bike lane, or better yet, expand it. Removing it is exactly the wrong direction to go.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Diane K Gibbins (gibby3166@gmail.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 15:48:51

address: 6 Stark Dover

comments: It seems more and more people are riding now and infrastructure like this lane is needed to keep people safe (we need MORE!) I am hoping to see kids on this going to school next year. Time, effort, and money was put into this..it seems reasonable to work with the recommended safety improvements vs scratching the entire project.

I ride frequently into Portsmouth and am a member of Bicycle Benefits.

Thank you!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Michelle Anderson (Anderson.michl@gmail.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 15:54:12

address: 236 Cate St.

comments: Councilors- the Middle St. Bike lane needs to remain as is. Not only is removing the lane bad policy, it is fiscally irresponsible at a time where the City needs to be far more prudent with expenses. This has been debated time and time again. I implore you to put this down once and for all and keep the bike lanes. We need them and we cannot afford to repay the grant money.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Bernadette Curran (bernadettecurran@comcast.net) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 18:33:18

address: 380 Ocean Road, unit 4

comments: The city can not afford to back a plan that may or may not increase revenue at the expense of shop owners and the general business community. I support the restaurant community and understand the impact Covid had on them as us all.

The downtown can not afford sustained in interruption in foot and vehicle traffic.

Tourism challenged needs a smooth mobility. Residents time to come downtown, WE ARE FOR BUSINESS!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Thomas Morley (53tomo@gmail.com) on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 18:59:28

address: 145 Brewery Lane

comments: When I first moved to this city, I knew nothing of the controversy surrounding the Middle Street bikes lanes. It looked to me as though the bikes lanes were a smart first step towards providing REAL protections for cyclists in the city through a smart infrastructure investment. I used them a number of times during my first summer here and appreciated the feeling of solidity and permanence that they provided. Granted, they are not perfect, and if I hadn't seen similar floating lanes in the previous two cities I had lived in I would have likely been as confused and as perturbed as some of the middle street and Portsmouth citizens have been. But please know, your job as council members is to maximize benefits for the most number of people possible. I think it is clear that in this case, protecting a smart (and costly) investment, providing a safe route to school, and marking out a sliver of protection for one of the most vulnerable forms of transportation is clearly in the best interest of the majority of the city's population. Thank you and please vote to protect these bikes lanes.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Gabrielle Burke (gabrielle.burke207@gmail.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 05:56:15

address: 7 Portwalk Pl, Unit 1503 Portsmouth, NH 03801

comments: As a new resident to the City of Portsmouth and a parent, I urge you to have bike lanes throughout our city. We chose to live here because of its accessibility and it feels like a safe city. I can easily get from downtown to Hannaford on a bike but without a bike lane, I would be too concerned of harm to myself let alone my children. I plead to you, please maintain and expand bike lanes in the city of Portsmouth.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Bridget Stearns (Bridgetstearns@comcast.net) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 07:24:27

address: Back Road, Dover

comments: Urging the City Council to vote in favor of keeping the Middle Road bike lane in tact. This area needs more bike lanes, not less. Bike lanes are good for our communities and our businesses!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Carol Coronis (rockthecittern@comcast.net) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 08:22:26

address: 42 Osprey Drive, Portsmouth NH

comments: This is a brilliant idea! Our town is unique and this vital community is worth saving. We are fortunate that there is a core of people dedicated to preserving our town's lifeblood and the arts community by thinking beyond our current limitations during these bizarre changing times. I urge you to support and approve this effort for a safe community gathering space that can only strengthen the economy in our neck of the woods.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jonathan Katzenstein (jonny1963@hotmail.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 10:15:50

address: 140 Cutts St Portsmouth, NH

comments: I am very distressed to hear that the city council is considering removing the bike lanes on Middle St. Instead of removing bike lanes we should be adding more and better bike lanes and bike paths, wherever possible. This town is too car focused and we need to encourage and support cycling for commuting and recreation. There needs to be a network of paths and bike lanes to connect routes throughout the town. A change of perspective is needed.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by John Ferguson (jferg315@aol.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 11:13:09

address: 315 Richards Ave

comments: To the Portsmouth City Council The Middle Street bike lane is a positive addition to the city. It's greatest success is that it makes drivers and riders more aware, making everyone safer. Rephrase some of the complaints and there is strong support. I have to drive more slowly. I have to pay more attention at intersections. I can't drive in the breakdown lane. Not bad for a few bollards and some paint.

John Ferguson

315 Richards Ave

Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Tim Blagden (Tslagden@gmail.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 12:10:12

address: PO Box 610, Warner, NH 03278

comments: Please keep the Middle St Bike Lane. More people than ever are using bicycles to reach destinations. But the majority of people want low traffic stress routes. This bike lane is essential to the present and future vibrancy of the city.

For more information on commuter cycling see strongtowns.org, smart growth America's Complete Streets, people for bikes, and articles in the New York Times this week. Seacoast online just had an article saying local shops have sold out of lower priced bikes. The National Bicycle Dealers Association reports sales in March were up 39% over March of 2019. Please, in the face of increased usage nationwide and worldwide don't cripple Portsmouth's bicycle master plan by removing this bike infrastructure.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Emily Doe (ecmo15@hotmail.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 13:25:36

address: 127 Willard Ave

comments: I CAN NOT believe I am sending this email once again. You as the council are not doing you job well, and DO NOT have the best interest of our children at heart. They are the future leaders of our nation, and deserve the BEST we can offer them. Cutting the budget, especially after the challenging learning year they had at the end of 2020 is ridiculous! I don't care if you have kids in the school system or not, we should all be hoping for the best of our towns children, and giving them the best opportunities we can offer. Do not delay, DO NOT cut the budget!

I chose to move to Portsmouth mainly because of the school system, and the stellar reputation the Portsmouth school district has. I am willing to pay the outstanding tax rate because of the phenomenal teachers and staff the Portsmouth schools maintain. I am 100% percent opposed to the \$1.8 million budget cut, it would crate such severe damage to our schools, we would not be able to maintain the level of education our children not only need, but deserve! We need to do better for our children, cutting the educational program is not an option.

Thank you,
Emily Doe

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Liane Phillips (lphillips@wiseconstruction.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 15:19:35

address: PO BOX 653, NC

comments: My Children are students at both PMS and PHS and play sports representing their respective schools. To discuss the notion of removing athletics as a whole would be incredible detrimental for the students/athletes they play or come to cheer on the Portsmouth School community. While I understand that cutbacks may have to happen I think a reduction in weekly games could be an answer and a cost savings for athletic departments while still allowing games to be played Friday thru either Saturday/Sunday. It would cut costs on busing schedules and perhaps rethink where the teams travel and the districts they play against. We need to be creative thinkers before we eliminate departments or positions.

Safety is a priority for both students and parents. I would like to know that when my children leave our home that I am entrusting them to each of their schools and that I can count on the Principles, teaching Staff and Security to monitor and handle any potential situations should they arise. I would like to feel that confidence as I drive to work. Please understand there are days when my children spend more time on school grounds than they do in our home with practices and games etc. Please let's rethink how we choose to budget. And let's think about our students and teachers should we return to school this Fall. Some of these students will need additional help to acclimate back into a learning environment. Again. let's not be too hasty.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Patrice R Gerard (chefpatriceg@gmail.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 17:30:23

address: 12 Ruth St, Portsmouth

comments: I am joining my voice to the myriad of Portsmouth's residents and to the experts on this subject to leave the bike lanes on Middle Street in their present location. There are some recommended improvements that have been put forward to the city regarding safety. Now is not the time to forfeit NHDOT grant money in order to move backwards in our city's conscientious development.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by James Eiffe (j_eiffe@yahoo.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 19:00:08

address: 40 SUNSET RD

comments: So apparently not all city council members are on the Facebook page of The (un) Official City of Portsmouth, NH page and so I will share my thoughts with all of you here. By the way that page is a good source to see how voters are feeling. If you're not on that page it is a wasted opportunity on your part as a councilor. FYI... I am just a member of that page and not affiliated with its management.

I am so disappointed as to the city's lack of action on helping to ensure our critical restaurants remain open and vibrant. My point is get them open now! No more wasted weekends or unnecessary permanent closures. Summer is here, kids are out of school and vacation wallets are opening. Open up the streets to our businesses, close them to traffic (except emergency vehicles as needed) and get it going now! If needed learn as you go... tweak the rules as needed but get moving! Too many wasted days without action. Close the streets, open up space for seating and get it done ASAP! Other towns/cities have implemented solutions quicker and they are far less reliant on their tourism and restaurants than Portsmouth. The lack of action is frustrating, deafening and disappointing. These are unprecedented times requiring unprecedented action and speed of response. Our city's lack of action is frustrating.

I am not even a local business owner... just a resident of this fine city. Close down the streets and let the business take over. City Council members... get a sense of urgency and open up our streets. A walking vibrant downtown is possible, but you need to move quickly!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Robert Bowser (bob_bowser@me.com) on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 22:42:42

address: 692 State Street

comments: I love the idea of using the underutilized new garage space for restaurants, events, and bars.

I also enthusiastically support turning street parking spaces (like the north end of Boston) or parking lots, or closing streets to make outdoor dining / drinking much more economically viable for our business in Portsmouth while people seek to remain safe with the coronavirus epidemic still in play,

With all the vitality that Portsmouth did have prior to this crisis now on hold, businesses struggling, and other communities just moving faster and being more bold, this could be an inflection point for the city if we continue to wait for clarity.

Let's get this started and adjust as needed, before more businesses announce they just will never reopen.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Julian Whipple (jww543@gmail.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 00:50:29

address: 145 Raleigh Way, Portsmouth, NH 03801

comments: Please support the proposed Popup Restaurant for the Parking Garage roof.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Richard Matthes (richmatthes@me.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 05:41:59

address: 69 Sunset Road

comments: I would like to advocate for the continued support of the Middle Street Bike Lanes. I feel that it is important that we support cycling as a mode of transit and that we ensure the well bring and safety of cyclistS as vulnerable users of our roads. I support modest changes that are improvements but we must not regress to the previous middle road conditions where speeding was rampant and walkers, cyclists, runners - both adults and children - were unsafe.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Rhi Jeffrey (rhurun@me.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 07:21:06

address: 523 Portland Street

comments: Dear Portsmouth city council members,

My name is Rhi Jeffrey and I own a small business that operates out of the Portsmouth Indoor Pool called the Atlantis Aquatics swim team. I am writing to you today to express my concern with the decisions to close the outdoor pool for the summer and to close the indoor pool until further notice. This worries me for a multitude of reasons, not just that it affects at least two small businesses in your city (ATLA and Portsmouth Swim Team). My major concern is kids and their safety. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death in children under 5 and is a real fear for people of all ages, especially kids. Our beaches and lakes are open, but there aren't many public pools for the kids to learn to swim in or play in. If their only option for family swim is open water, that's where they will flock to. Without lessons at Pierce Island and without swim teams in Portsmouth I have a great fear we will see an increase in drownings this summer. We've already had a few very close to home.

The PIP is a place where kids come for summer jobs and for their lifeguard trainings. We are experiencing a national lifeguard shortage and I fear things like this will continue to add to the problem. Without lifeguards, we can't even open things like Water Country safely. The PIP not only provides a safe place to learn to swim, it also provides us with our lifeguards.

On top of that you have a group of kids on the Seacoast that are very dedicated to competitive swimming. Just by closing the PIP alone you are keeping almost 200 competitive swimmers age 5-18 out of their sport while all their friends in other sports are allowed to practice. I totally understand our country is struggling with finances and our city is dealing with budget cuts but I really encourage you to think about what keeping both pools closed entirely will mean for the kids of this community and the two small businesses that need pool space to stay afloat (no pun intended). And by keeping the pool closed due to budget concerns you are telling these swimmers their sport isn't as important as keeping the other stuff open.

I have tried to work with SIPP on multiple occasions but to no avail. I have tried to run for their board to be a voice to advocate for the pool but to no avail. I would really appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the city and SIPP to come up with a good plan for a return to the pool. Our community NEEDS the pool and our kids safety should be paramount.

Sincerely, Rhi Jeffrey

OLY

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Patricia Burke Edwards (triciabedwards@outlook.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 15:46:14

address: 23 Willard Ave

comments: Dear Portsmouth City Councilors,

Athletics, Paraprofessionals, Environmental Camp, are just a few things that mean the world to my four children. I have been fortunate to have one child graduate this year and he will always remember all of the wonderful activities he was privy to as a Portsmouth student. Please, especially after all our children have lost during COVID-19, do not cut these essential activities and services. They deserve to continue to have the best possible education and extra-curricular activities made available to them.

Sincerely,

Tricia Edwards

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Andrew Bagley (acbagley@yahoo.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 17:41:22

address: 40 Chauncey Street

comments: Please support the motion that Spliane and Deaglan have on the Agenda: "That the City Council authorizes the Portsmouth Citizen Response Task Force to create a plan and begin implementation for full or partial street closures, and use of street parking areas and other city-owned parking locations for restaurant, retail, and non-profit organization use through October 18th of this year, with the approval of our Police, Fire, Health, and Inspection Departments"

Best Regards,

Andrew Bagley

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Beth S. Margeson (bmargeson@myfairpoint.net) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 18:52:58

address: 24 Marcy Street, Portsmouth

comments: Dear Mayor, Asst. Mayor and Councilors,

I write to ask the council to authorize the execution of the Letter of Agreement with Friends of Prescott Park for the sculpture "Odyssey".

The placing of the sculpture in Prescott Park was approved by the City Council at its October 28, 2019 meeting but, due to an inadvertent oversight, the actual agreement was omitted from the city council packet.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Josh Denton (joshuaddenton@hotmail.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 19:30:17

address: 110 Brewery Lane, 312

comments: Over the previous four years, I championed our Farm to School and composting programs. It should therefore not be a surprise to even the casual observer, that I am writing to encourage this City Council to not eliminate either from Portsmouth's FY21 Budget on Monday night.

In addition to claiming over 100,000 American lives, causing mass unemployment, and creating this recession, the coronavirus has exposed the frailty of our modern industrial food chain. Yet our grocery stores are mostly just stocked with items that originate in faraway monocultures, that are highly processed, and often possess less nutritional value than we think. By comparison, the rotation of diverse crops by our local farms leads to healthier soils, deeper roots, and a far greater variation of well grown and more nutritious foods. During the past four years, the Farm to School Coordinator has emulated this by using a combination of school gardens, local farms, and other producers from the community to integrate healthy nutritional behaviors, hands-on learning, and physical activity into many aspects of the kindergarten to twelfth grade curriculum.

Well documented benefits from the Farm to School program also include an increase in vegetable consumption, reduced screen time, and increased academic performance. Entire family diets even benefit when students get their parents to start incorporating produce purchased at farmers markets, from actual roadside farm stands, or through Community Supported Agriculture shares into their meals. Further, local produce being purchased, promoted, and served in our cafeterias opens institutional doors and offers significant financial opportunities for our farmers. These concepts may all seem novel for a \$47,419 a year part-time position, until you consider the likelihood that as the earth's population dramatically increases over the lifetime of these students, farms are projected to become forty percent less productive due to the anticipated pre-rice, pre-wheat, and pre-potato temperatures.

This is where students educating their entire families on composting comes in. We are all hopefully familiar with how food scraps deposited in Mr. Fox Composting's containers are diverted from our waste stream, go through their facility's process, and are turned into nutrient rich compost that can be used to grow wholesome food at home. Again, this may seem like a novel concept for roughly \$6,500 annually, until you consider that food waste that is not composted releases methane as it decomposes in landfills, and that methane is several dozen times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. In fact, food waste is the world's third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, partially due to the average American household not diverting their eight to twelve pounds of weekly food scraps from the landfill by composting them instead.

Over the past thirty years alone, our generations have collectively doubled the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution began, leaving much uncertain about the world this upcoming generation will inherit. This City Council can at least allow students to continue to learn the true value of local farms, composting, and building a resilient local economy.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mary Yost (maryjoyyost@gmail.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 19:34:12

address: 141 court dt
comments: Please keep us. Safe on bikes
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Thomas Smart (smarththomas737@gmail.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 20:11:13

address: 133 Lincoln Ave.
comments: To the City Council:
I have been a resident of Portsmouth since 2004. I am a serious bicyclist and use my bike for all commuting and shopping within a radius of 15 miles, day or night in every season. In some years my mileage will reach 3000.
I am familiar with the downtowns of Hampton, Exeter, Dover and Durham. I don't think that any of them has a section as risky as the short stretch on Middle street that has become such a topic of discussion. I live near Middle st. and use it to go anywhere south or west. The protected lane , along with the rest of markings is a real improvement. I don't want to go back to the original layout with the risk of being rear-ended or "doored".
Thomas Smart
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Brendan Cooney (br_cooney@me.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 20:29:02

address: 57 Mount Vernon St, Portsmouth

comments: To the Mayor and Councilors:

With COVID-19 there has been a dramatic increase in bicycle ridership across the country and of course in Portsmouth too. Bicycles have sold out at many local stores and supply is slow to rebuild because demand has been so high, especially for children's bicycles. With more kids on bikes in Portsmouth streets, it is more important than ever to make sure we have safe routes for cyclists to get around the City. As regards the Middle Street/Lafayette bicycle lanes:

- Public safety experts have determined that the design of the Middle Street/Lafayette bicycle lanes makes the street significantly safer – and the data show this is true.
- It's clear that improvements can be made, as attested by the Police, Fire, Planning and Public Works Departments; however it is also the unanimous recommendation from the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee to allow safety improvements but to keep the lanes in place.
- Moving the lane to the driver side of parked cars puts bike riders at increased risk of being "doored," and also sandwiches bike riders between moving and parked cars, reducing safety for drivers and riders alike.
- What's more, removing the bicycle lanes would not only require the expense of removing them, but also require that the City return a significant amount of federal money to the NHDOT.

I strongly urge you to listen to the recommendations from public safety experts, from our own City Department leaders and from Portsmouth's Parking and Traffic Safety Committee to make improvements and keep the Middle Street/Lafayette bicycle lanes in place. It's the right thing to do for our City's safety, the City's budget, and for our City's kids.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Paul Young (pyoung@novuspublicaffairs.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 20:34:07

address: 33 Deer Street #33

comments: These are difficult times for all of us. In many ways life will never be the same. At times like this, history tells us that fortitude and bold ingenuity are crucial to moving forward. The idea of using the city's rooftop is a bold idea. And I think, a good idea worth serious consideration. There are issues to be addressed no doubt. And I hope the council will look at those issues in timely manner as dictated by our current situation. The one thing we know that is certain, the small business environment that has fueled the success of Portsmouth will not survive with inaction. I urge the council to think boldly and find a way to use assets such as the parking garage roof and other assets to help our small businesses survive. On a positive note, some of the things we all treasure came from innovation through difficult times. Don't stay static. Take chances. Static cities die and are no more.

Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Daniel Morin (Dmorin95@icloud.com) on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 20:39:47

address: 7 Portwalk Place #1503. Portsmouth NH

comments: Please keep the bike lanes available. Due to our environmental responsibility to reduce carbon footprint.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Matthew Glenn (matthglenn@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 07:43:29

address: 34 Harrison Ave

comments: Honorable mayor and councilors,

I've written before in support of the Middle Street/Lafayette Bicycle lanes (and of the staff recommended improvements for this summer), and won't take up your time this evening commenting in person. I've tried to better understand the position of some detractors who live on Middle, but the inconvenience of parking across the street doesn't outweigh the safety benefits for all. The public safety officials, professional planners, and the data all point to it being a safer street with lanes and bollards in place, and I haven't heard a convincing argument--or data--showing they make it less safe for anyone.

I'd like to commend Ms. Walker and the planning department for their respectful responses and openness to modifications as they also work long hours on other major planning considerations downtown.

I urge you tonight not to "do nothing" and have a "bollard free summer"-- which would show our council doesn't care for safety, for the advice of Police and Fire Chiefs, or for the PTSC vote-- but to allow these inexpensive safety improvements to go forward. The many riders out there these days will thank you.

Time for me to bike in to work. Thank you for your time.

Matthew Glenn

34 Harrison Ave

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Chris Dwyer (cdwyer@rmcres.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 07:57:37

address: 600 broad street portsmouth NH 03801

comments: With everything happening nationally, it is to be expected that there would be proposals for addressing governance of police locally. I don't think it is time to enlarge the Police Commission without more serious thinking about the type of governance that would serve our city in modern times. I have long thought that Portsmouth needs a Citizen Review Board rather than a Police Commission. As you've probably learned during the budgeting process, in the way our charter is structured, the Police Commission tends to be put in the position of advocacy for the Police Department. It's very difficult for them to serve independently and that would be challenging if we faced an incident involving excessive use of force, as we've seen in other cities. I don't think adding two more advocates onto the Commission addresses any citizen concerns that may be raised about oversight of police.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Claudette Barker (cmbarker@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 08:18:07

address: 5 Hancock Street

comments: Portsmouth is an attractive seacoast town with a beautiful downtown creating high property values. It's great for retirees, but a community needs families and children.

Looking closely, Portsmouth schools already fail their children in certain areas where neighboring towns excel. Please review the accelerated course offerings at the Cooperative Middle School and Portsmouth middle school's inability to match those opportunities. New castle students used to come to Portsmouth Middle School and now go to Rye for a more supportive environment. As a resident with two school age children, I moved one to private school. Our school board has at least two members that have school aged children outside the Portsmouth public school system. We are fortunate to have the resources to move our children. However, we are families invested in our community and it saddens me that we are forced to move our children outside the community to help them thrive.

Portsmouth is not properly supporting its children under the current budget. To take more from Portsmouth's education budget will not only be detrimental to the students and future of this town but I believe it will begin to impact property values. People will learn that Portsmouth does not invest in their children and look to neighboring areas like Stratham and York where a majority of taxes are spent on education.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Christine Mayeux (Bridgestreetbistrot@comcast.net) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 08:43:05

address: 64 bridge street

comments: Please provide specific direction on where to submit a proposal for creative solutions to safely integrate sidewalk dining with pedestrian walkways through abutting parking spaces. The current city sidewalk permit application is obsolete. No one is asking for this to be a permanent arrangement - but we are losing time and are fighting for the survival of our businesses. This can be done now for any restaurant that has abutting parking spaces and will help provide safe social distancing for the safety of diners, waitstaff and pedestrians.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Adrienne Harrison (adeharrison@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 09:01:05

address: 238 Highland St

comments: Dear Councilors,

I am writing to request that the full requested school budget of \$52,188,548 be considered tonight and request that you reinstate the \$141,736 in proposed cuts on the table for tonight's budget vote. I also am asking you to clarify the programs and positions that will be cut? At the meeting tonight, I would like to hear you address each and every line item you support cutting from the school budget. If you do not support cuts, please vote to add the funds back to the budget.

It appears that cuts will be made to enrichment programs such as Farms to Schools, healthy try-it food program, school composting program, and food education. These programs may seem like an easy place to cut, however, the students are being exposed to fresh food from local farms which is really beneficial to the long term well being and development of children. Composting is a no brainer given the fact that most items are disposable and generate significant trash. Not to mention, our children care deeply about making less trash. If you can not generate funds to install dishwashers or staff to wash trays and silverware, composting is a practical way to accommodate food service items. Will you save the composting fees when it is all turned into trash that must be paid for to cart to a landfill? What happens when the landfills are full?

I encourage you to look closely at the cuts. Are these the programs that truly matter least? It looks like athletics may not happen in the same way this year, can those costs be cut this year for a COVID budget? (and believe, I love sports so that suggestion does not come lightly).

Thank you for your support for a fully funded school system and enrichment programs.

Respectfully,

Adrienne

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ken Bozler (kbozler25@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 09:11:50

address: 8A Central Ave., Portsmouth

comments: Please do the right thing today, as other cities around the WORLD and here in New England have, and stop making excuses and take IMMEDIATE action to help our restaurants survive by opening our streets to dining! It will aid in rebuilding these businesses before it is too late! It will show the citizen's of Portsmouth that this council is actually "For the People" (By the People too!). Make it happen tonight! By the way, it will also be FUN! We have plenty of parking now so street parking not an issue!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by charlotte Bouvier (cbouvier12@msn.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 09:24:20

address: 1001 ISLINGTON ST, apt 43

comments: The middle street bike lane is the best example of how Portsmouth is being progressive with its street design and considering everyone not just cars. I am proud of Portsmouth for being a leader and creating a protected safer bike lane. Don't let us go backwards! Please don't get ride of it!

Expect have recommended some improvements, please approve those, and keep the bike lane! It is making everyone safer, calming traffic, and encouraging alternate mode of transportation which are needed for the planet!

I am a resident, I bike regularly to go downtown and have been making a detour to ride middle street in and out as it is safer than the other major streets. Please keep it.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Buster Mille (bustermiller@hotmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 09:27:27

address: 1001 Islington St

comments: I am writing in support of the protected bike line and the bollards. It slows traffic on Middle Street, prevents people from driving into the bike lane (which occurs regularly at the Middle street/Lafayette split). The bollards also reduce parking encroachment which impedes bike travel.

Positive community change starts with things like bike lanes to reduce car traffic and increase pedestrian traffic.

I use Middle street almost daily because Islington street that is a disaster of parking, traffic and speed. Islington is an example of what a UN-Freindly pedestrian street looks like.

The Middle Street bollarded bike line is one small step towards a more pedestrian friendly street-scape. The city needs to go further, more cross walks, more speed reducing construction/designs and actual speed enforcement would be more positive steps.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Tom Hiney (thiney@citgo.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 10:06:36

address: 101 Langdon St Portsmouth, NH

comments: I was looking online on the Council site to get the latest on your decisions on above subject. I'm not familiar with how you file this info so could you supply a link?

Comment: I'm very concerned with what appears to be a lack of urgency to get a plan (as imperfect as it will be, working in a compressed timeframe) to expand outdoor dining and retail space available for our merchants and restaurants. These businesses as we know are fragile and we are staring high season. This is terrible time for all of us but it will pass. We need to do as much as we can to bring as many local proprietors

thru this with us as possible. This is a time for “pilot” programs, we can possibly make lemonade but only if we act quickly. It’s decision time not because we have all the info we want to make the best decision. It’s time to decide and quickly move forward because we are simply out of time. Let’s use your positions to help out our neighbors while uncovering what does and doesn’t work. What wil Portsmouth be two years from now? An even more vibrant community or a mere shadow of its self? The federal stimulus package will soon end. Are we not talking about a local stimulus? Please this is a time to error on the side of commerce support!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by CJ Fleck (cj.fleck@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 10:46:48

address: 6 Rockaway Street

comments: Please bring back the Middle Street Bike Lane in full. I know it has it's detractors, but it's a net win. It is objectively safer (look at the data), the police captain and fire chief both speak in favor of it, and it really helps make the corridor to downtown more approachable for families.

I know Councilor Kennedy tells the story of the crash she was involved in where she had no room swerve, but that is the point of the bike lane. It did it's job! The alternative is for cars to swerve into unprotected people on bikes.

If you listen to many of the complaints, it's the same theme. Some drivers complain because it is forcing them to pay so much more attention as they come in and out of town. That is a great result!

Could it be better? Of course. Curbing and landscaping would help beautify the corridor and make the parking situation clearer. And I'm sure some folks that live on Middle have their own complaints, but the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee has been excellent about dealing with them individually.

When dealing with the bike lane, the people who live on it aren't the only voices that need to be heard. The bike lane is for all of us!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Megan Glenn (mefolz.glenn@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 10:48:56

address: 34 Harrison Ave

comments: Dear City Councilors,

I am writing in support of the bike lanes on Middle Street and Lafayette. I am a casual biker, biking mainly for transportation around town. I greatly enjoy riding into town from my home in Elwyn Park during the summer so I do not have to deal with parking. I also find myself riding much more frequently as my children grow older and become more confident riders themselves. I very much hope that biking and pedestrian safety in all parts of Portsmouth become a priority for the city. I would love for my children to grow up being able to be independent bikers while also being as safe as possible. I feel that the protected bike lanes improve safety and encourage more riding. I encourage the city to keep the safety measures that have already been put in place and I hope that an extension is considered in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Glenn

34 Harrison Ave

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sarah B Fleck (sarah.fleck@gmail.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 10:56:15

address: 6 Rockaway Street

comments: The Middle Street Bike Lane has been discussed a lot recently. However, I do not feel that those making the most noise are the ones using the bike lanes.

I think the City Council should listen to the public safety experts (Police Captain Newport and Fire Chief Germain) who say that the design makes the street significantly and measurably safer. This goes against what Facebook posts and others say but I think the experts are well the experts and we should listen.

As a spouse to someone who uses the bike lanes daily instead of driving a car to work, I am very concerned that moving the lane to the driver side of parked cars puts bike riders at risk of being "doored" or hit by distracted drivers. If improvements need to be made for less bollards, changing some of the road markings, etc, then great, please just don't put those that use them in danger.

We should also listen to the statement from NHDOT that changes to the lane would require the return of major federal grant money already spent - we are in the middle of budget cuts and I would hate for our schools to get less because a few uninformed people are making a stink over something they do not use. Lastly, can we just follow the nearly unanimous recommendation of the Parking and Traffic Safety committee to allow city staff to make modest safety improvements, not undo this whole project.

This partially protected bicycle lane project comes out of years of work and public processes, including Portsmouth Listens groups and the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. We need to improve on it and build out the network for riders of all abilities, not take a costly step backwards.

Thank you for your time.

Sarah Fleck

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Deb Chag (Chagports1@comcast.net) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 11:20:19

address: 404 Middle Street

comments: Dear City Council

My name is Deb Chag and I am writing to encourage you to support staff recommendations to make adjustments to Middle Street at your meeting tonight. I have lived at 404 Middle Street since 1991 and the past two years since the bike lane was installed I have observed much calmer and safer traffic. Middle Street was quite wide which encouraged motorists to drive far faster than is safe. I can remember at least three occasions in recent memory when cars have left the road and crashed into people's gardens and living rooms. If you pay attention, you will notice that many of the trees that line the street carry the gashes and scars of reckless drivers.

I am not, nor have I ever been a regular cyclist. However, I do enjoy walking and I appreciate the extra space between the sidewalk and the travel lanes as well as the shorter width of the road which makes crossing safer and easier. I also drive the stretch at least a couple of times a day and don't find it at all challenging. I think if others who are complaining would simply slow down and put their phones away they wouldn't have any trouble either.

Also, I started observing many more cyclists using the road than at any other time in the nearly thirty years I have lived in my house. I like that the bike lane seems to be encouraging new travel habits that are greener. So please vote to support safety and sustainability tonight.

Thanks you,

Deb

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Kelly Cioe (kelly@whalenpr.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 12:00:35

address: 44 Melbourne Street

comments: You said that the reduction of \$1.8 million from the school budget was an exercise, don't let it become the reality.

I have seen posts on Facebook and Twitter, that our kids are resilient, that they will rebound from a reduction in education. But consider this...

Many parents move to Portsmouth for their kids because we have always put education first. You say kids are resilient and they are, they fall down and they get back up. But take away money from education and we will be leaving a whole generation of kids behind. K, first, and second graders need people to learn, you can't teach the foundations of reading, math, and social skills over Zoom. Our kids are going to need more resources, not less. And if you take away athletics and extracurricular activities for students, how do parents get back to work full-time. I don't know many parents that can work school hours, without quality, safe afterschool activities for their kids. Fund education. You want to keep Portsmouth vibrant? It's our community, the people that live here that make Portsmouth so great that others flock here to visit. You just cannot cut the education budget by \$1.8 million. My vote will go elsewhere come elections. Many of you ran a campaign on the importance of education, keep your promises.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Lori Richardson (lori@scoremoresales.com) on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 12:26:01

address: 462 Post Road, Greenland, NH

comments: We moved to Greenland 7 years ago and visit downtown Portsmouth typically twice a week - sometimes more - especially in the Spring / Summer. I love supporting local businesses and restaurants. We are concerned about many of them bouncing back post-COVID-19. When I heard about the rooftop parking project, I was thrilled because it sounds safe (I am a mask-wearer) and it is innovative. Through a fun / festive strategy you will help a very serious issue of getting those of us who are pretty darned comfortable in our homes back into downtown. I can't wait to see this come together, and see those hard-working small business owners and restaurateurs survive and THRIVE post pandemic.

includeInRecords: on