

**CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS**  
**September 14, 2020 Council Meeting**  
**ADDENDUM**

**The following e-mails were received:**

**September 10, 2020** (after 9:00 a.m.) – **September 14, 2020** (before 4:00 p.m.)

**If you need further information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 610-7208.**

**From:** [Andrew Bagley via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** ~\$250k of taxpayer money  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:39:32 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Andrew Bagley (abagley21@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 08:39:30

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address: 40 Chauncey Street

comments: Dear Council,

I read with dismay that Councilor Petra Huda is proposing that we refund the nearly quarter million dollars in grant money to the state during a pandemic in order to get rid of bike lanes.

It is a fact that the bike lanes are safer. Councilor Huda is using the fact that a biker was doored by a passenger side door from and improperly parked car to justify this extravagant waste of taxpayer money. In fact is is much more likely to be doored by a driver of a car as cars do not always have passengers, and if doored by a driver the biker is likely to fall into traffic, not the shoulder of the road.

This extravagant waste of taxpayer dollars is unbecoming of a city council. Especially because it will make the roads less safe for our children.

Best regards,  
Andrew Bagley  
40 Chauncey Street

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.102.100

**From:** [Jean-Marie Detcher via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lane- please keep  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 10:42:15 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jean-Marie Detcher ([jeanmarie.elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmarie.elizabeth@gmail.com)) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 09:42:13

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address: 4 Arthur Rd, Portsmouth

comments: Please keep the bike lanes. Bike lanes are a way of the future for a better environment for our offspring, and glitches can economically be solved when Middle Street gets repaved. I drive there often and they are a minor change to get used to. I am also an avid cyclist and have recognized the safety the bike lanes provide especially for casual cyclists and kids of all ages riding to school or their friend's house. Drivers AND cyclists can be part of a way of life of coexisting with and appreciating bicyclists' improvement to our environment. Thanks for thinking ahead for a better future for all!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 67.189.236.215

**From:** [Deborah Harrigan via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lane support  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 6:21:29 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Deborah Harrigan (dahmd@yahoo.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 05:21:27

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address: 11 Sunset Dr

comments: I am in support of the Middle St. dedicated bike lane in Portsmouth. As a Seacoast resident, I believe we need to promote safe cycling routes to help decrease reliance on cars. Decommissioning the current bike lane would be costly and wasteful. The tax dollars that would be wasted could and should be appropriated to additional alternative transportation efforts.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.34.44.191

**From:** [Michael Derhammer via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lane, Keep and Expand.  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 8:53:30 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Michael Derhammer (hagusmd@yahoo.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 07:53:28

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address: 280 Thaxter Rd

comments: Hello I am disturbed to hear two council members recently proposed removal of the bike lanes on Middle without public input. This is short sighted and serves the "Loud and Affluent". I am a cycle commuter. I use the lane to access downtown and the Bowl-a-rama plaza. Though I use the current bike lanes, I am a competent and aggressive cyclist. I would ride in traffic with or without the lanes. I suspect drivers would prefer I were not in traffic though. The people that need these lanes are the constituents you likely would not hear from, Children, Teens, POC and People of lesser financial means. Not seeing their needs is a callous, self centered act. Time and time again, the bike lane issue is about one thing. Speed. People want to drive too quickly. If a driver claims they are having trouble getting out of their drive because of the bike lane creating a viewing hazard. It really means oncoming traffic is moving too quickly for people pulling out. If we want the road wider for greater visibility, that is simple. No on street parking. Why should my tax dollars maintain a parking space for a homeowner? ( I use the hyperbole to show the logic that anti bike lane activists are using on the bike lane).

If anything we need to add bike lanes to more streets. Normalizing cycle use will increase ridership, and aid in making drivers aware that they should slow down in Portsmouth.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.167.216.208

**From:** [Christina Cook via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lane  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 2:36:59 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Christina Cook (zenawcook17@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 13:36:57

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address: 380 Ocean Road #14

comments: Dear City Council,

Thank you Councilors Lazenby and McEachern for your support.

Do other councilors ride bikes? If they do is it around the block or is it to go shopping?  
Have they explored Portsmouth to see what areas feel safe to ride?

I pose these questions for you to think about it. I ride all over town and the safest route IS Middle Street. All other streets I ride with traffic. Cars have to cross the double yellow lines to pass me safely.

Riding into the West End is not safe and I'm disappointed that space for a bike was not included with the beautiful sidewalk. It's now more dangerous for a biker, sadly.

A lot of time and thought was put into this design and safety Of The Middle Street Bike Lane experts say it's better. I agree.

Change is difficult but doable. Working together to modify bollards has been a positive collaborative step.

Keep positive and continue to support the bike lane for our health and safety.

Sincerely,  
Christina Cook

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 174.63.76.246

**From:** [Keith Wilkinson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:59:14 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Keith Wilkinson ([kwilk.works@gmail.com](mailto:kwilk.works@gmail.com)) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 20:59:12

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address: 62 Winter St

comments: At this time when many pressing issues should be the focus of city leadership, why get distracted by the Middle Street bike lane? But if we must, Iâ€™d like to make two points.

1. My kids use it often. They are safer getting hit by a door than a fast moving 4000 Lb vehicle. What side of the parked cars do you think I want my babies on!? Backtracking on safety seems like a liability concern.

2. The current bike lane is an impressively frugal design. It uses just paint, a few flexible posts, and privately owned parked cars to improve infrastructure performance in multiple ways. Perhaps for the next bike lane the city could try more permanent features, like granite curbing and bricks, to satisfy those concerned with appearances.

Thank you for your service.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.168.72.135

**From:** [Kyle LaChance via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:26:41 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kyle LaChance (kylemariel@yahoo.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 08:26:40

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address: 86 S School St

comments: We should not spend money to get rid of the bike lanes now. We are going into the "off season" for biking. Wait 6 months and then consider how to improve them as the roads are repaved. Don't spend OUR money unnecessarily!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.9.18



**From:** [John Ingwersen via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:56:53 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
John Ingwersen (jingwersen@comcast.net) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 21:56:51

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address: 332 Jones Ave

comments: Support the existing bike lanes, do more if possible!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 67.189.235.194

**From:** [Dixie Tarbell via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:42:29 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Dixie Tarbell (dixiemcleantarbell@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 08:42:27

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address: 25 Driftwood Lane

comments: Please keep the bike lanes. Bike lanes are a way of the future for a better environment for our offspring, and glitches can economically be solved when Middle Street gets repaved. I drive there often and they are a minor change to get used to, though the gray poles seem to be camouflaged by blending into the background color. We drivers can be part of a way of life of coexisting with and appreciating bicyclists's™ improvement to our environment. Thanks for thinking ahead for a better future for all!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.221.160

**From:** [Lisa DeStefano via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 1:14:49 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Lisa DeStefano (ldestefano@destefanoarchitects.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12:14:48

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address: 640 middle st portsmouth nh

comments: As a resident on Middle Street, I witness a the use of the bike lanes with some of the challenges and the benefits.

The bike lanes are very well used, and becoming more so of recent. An added benefit to the reduced road width is slower traffic, which I understand a tighter road width promotes.

If I recall, one of the original designs Incorporated granite curbed bump-outs versus the striped areas...if this were to be initiated, the parking would then remain in the appropriate areas, the bikers would be safer and we could eliminate the white posts...this would make the feel similar to lower State street with a tighter street and the design feeling permanent and less confusing in general.

I understand that budget was a concern when initially moving this forward,and painting and bollards were great for a trial.

I understand there is a proposal to eliminate the bake lanes, pout parking back the way that it was and therefore the need to sending back the monies we received from the safe routes program.....I urge you all to wait, see the remainder of the study, and investigate development of the plan at that time with all the findings.

Regards,  
Lisa DeStefano, 640 Middle St, Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.224.224

**From:** [Pamela A. Richard via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:03:36 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Pamela A. Richard (pam@amaruq.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 08:03:34  
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address: 1179 Maplewood Ave

comments: Please do not cost us more money by voting to remove the bike lanes at this time. Study the problem more if you wish but there is no sensible reason for us to pay back the grant money by removing the lanes at this time. This council promised to save the tax payers money so keep that promise!

I am confused that Portsmouth professes to encourage people to avoid using cars yet I find the city to be less friendly to bikes and cars every year.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.104.28

**From:** [Martin Fox via FormMail.com](mailto:Martin.Fox@formmail.com)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Face masks 3  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 12:00:38 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Martin Fox (martinfox22@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 11:00:36

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address: 211 Oriental Gardens

comments: I have sent the council information on face mask earlier. Now I like to broaden the discussion by sending you what is happening in court in Ohio. This comes from a newsletter noted below.

Ohio attorney, Thomas Renz, on behalf of plaintiffs, has filed a case against the state of Ohio and Governor Mike DeWine. Renz is asking for a jury trial.

This case, in the current climate, should provoke intense interest from the public, and from every lawyer within hailing distance.

Here is the impressive opening salvo in the court filing:

"In recent months, entire states have been imprisoned without due process and with the clear threat to impose such lockdowns again, interstate travel has been severely restricted, privacy rights have been devastated, numerous business takings without compensation, and many regulations being implemented without statutory process requirements under the guise of a health emergency that is roughly as dangerous as a seasonal influenza outbreak. The plaintiffs in this case have all been injured in various capacities by these unconstitutional actions, and without action by the Court, will be left without redress. More terrifying, without action by the Court, the Court will be setting future precedent that will allow states to withhold fundamental Constitutional rights, in violation of US Supreme Court precedent, circumventing the various levels of scrutiny applied to such rights, and justify such actions under public health emergency orders without subjecting those orders to any real review---just trust the bureaucrats because they are the experts."

Here is the most important point: "We humbly ask the Court in this case to...Recognize that the political process and operative orders are invalid if based on false or misleading information... and recognize the criticality that all future emergency orders be based and maintained on clear, honest facts---particularly when such orders are infringing on Constitutional rights."

In other words, a declared State of Emergency cannot stand on the mere basis of arbitrary edict.

Facts matter. Actual science matters. Reasons why an Emergency is declared matter.

People can't be locked down and restrained from earning a living and having contact with other humans simply because a state authority decides to issue such orders.

If this case goes to trial, the door will open to the presentation of fact and science.

Attorney Renz, for the plaintiffs, is well aware of this, and his filing is studded with bold and accurate claims of fact:

"According to recent data from the Ohio COVID-19 Dashboard, we can see that the 'spike' in cases is actually just a spike in testing. The State went from a few thousand tests per day to 25,000 tests plus per day. The positivity rate for COVID-19 has remained fairly steady but there have been more tests."

"When the Emergency was declared we heard a daily drumbeat about the danger and deaths related to COVID-19.

Now that the case fatality rate has been shown to be roughly the same as the yearly flu...those [death] numbers are simply not scary to the public. As a result, the State sees no impact from talking about fatalities and has instead begun testing more so they could tell us there are more cases."

"The PCR tests are generally viewed as the means of determining if a patient has COVID-19. The problem is that the inventor of the PCR test, who won a Nobel Prize in chemistry for the invention, specifically stated that the test was not well-suited to and never designed to diagnose disease. Much has been made about this in the press and elsewhere but the reason there are issues with PCR testing in relation to COVID is that PCR testing cannot detect how much of a virus exists in a person. Exposure of the existence of incomplete traces of a virus do not mean a person is infected with a disease [,] which is part of the reason the PCR tests have an elevated rate of false positives."

"...there is not even a true standard for testing...Instead we have numerous tests from numerous vendors that may or may not have a similar standard for what it means to 'have' COVID-19. The CDC, governor, and ODH [Ohio Department of Health] know this so they have allowed for the diagnosis of cases based on as meaningless criteria as a cough in a community in which COVID supposedly exists."

Plow through this quote and then receive the translation below: "Another document also came to light that is critical in demonstrating the egregiously misleading nature of the public COVID-19 data. On the final paragraph of page 39 of a document published by the FDA regarding instructions for a COVID-19 test is the following quote: 'Since no quantified virus isolates of the 2019-nCoV are currently available, assays designed for detection of the 2019-nCoV RNA were tested with characterized stocks of in vitro transcribed full length RNA (N gene; GenBank accession: MN908947.2) of known titer (RNA copies/1/4L) spiked into a diluent consisting of a suspension of human A549 cells and viral transport medium (VTM) to mimic clinical specimen'."

"In plain English this means that there are no available pure 2019-nCoV virus isolates to test against so instead an educated best guess is being used. The question this leads us to is how accurate can a test be for a virus that has not been defined...? If our freedoms are to be abridged under an emergency declaration related to a disease, should it not be a requirement that the disease at least be defined?"

As you can see, this case is being argued not only on Constitutional grounds, but on major and deep issues of science. The plaintiffs are not accepting "the Word from the experts."

<https://renz-law.com/covid-19-litigation/>

<https://renzlaw.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/case-complaint-final-1.pdf>

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.216.73

**From:** [Peter Bergh via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Bike Lanes as is  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:37:04 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Peter Bergh (Pb@princecom.com) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 20:37:01

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address: 54 Lincoln Av, Portsmouth NH

comments: I am writing to encourage the City Council to keep the bike lanes as is and to NOT change them substantially. While I think there were some initial problems, by and large they work now. As a regular bicyclist and Portsmouth taxpayer, I think removing them or substantially changing them would not only be a waste of staff time, it would be a waste of tax payers money. And, to have to repay Federal Funds used in planning and implementing the lanes, would be inexcusable. The lanes are safe for bicyclists and motorists both. A small group of complainers is making this a much bigger issue then it is. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 70.109.165.179

**From:** [Julie Gallot via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 7:55:50 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Julie Gallot (juliesheehan63@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 06:55:47

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address: 10 Fletcher St

comments: I am very saddened to hear people are voting to remove the bike lanes in Portsmouth in middle street. We use these on a daily basis with my family of five (three being 5 and under). My 5 year old has a safe way to make it to town and learn bike safety at the same time. Please vote against removing the bike lanes. Plus it's going to cost the town A LOT of money to remove and change the current situation with paint etc. not a great time to be spending more money when revenue for the town is down tremendously.

Julie Gallot

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.217.0



**From:** [Paula Bedard via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** KEEP MIDDLE ST BIKE LANES!!!  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 11:30:03 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Paula Bedard (pbedard1@comcast.net) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 10:30:01

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address: 36 Shirley Park Road, Goffstown, NH

comments: As the statewide bike advocacy organization (Bike-Walk Alliance of NH) we urge you in the strongest voice possible to keep the Middle Street Bike Lane infrastructure. I myself have used\ridden this infrastructure as a tourist unfamiliar with the area & found the bike lane design to be excellent. It kept me safe as a bicyclist & allowed me to easily understand where in the traffic flow I should be positioned for my maximum safety. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, THE TRAFFIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS, and the road users themselves, the bicyclists, who have a right to use these roadways safely, including chikdren & teenagers who bike to school, the library, parks & other locations along Middle Street.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 98.216.192.38

**From:** [John Kennedy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Keep Middle St. Bike Lane  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 3:52:02 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
John Kennedy (john.edward.kennedy@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 14:51:58

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address: 66 Aldrich Rd

comments: To whom it may concern,

I hope you keep some form of the Middle St. bike lanes, and do not defund the program. Bike lanes are fundamentally safer and align with the City's Complete Streets Policy. My family was very glad to see this program launch and frequently use the lanes. Biking with 3 children under 9 feels much safer with the current traffic setup. Countless other municipalities have bike lanes (and continue adding more). I'm not sure why this remains an issue for Portsmouth.

Additionally, we are still in the midst of a global pandemic and the bike lanes have added benefits. Since this Spring I continually see walkers/runners also use the bike lanes to help socially distant other walkers/runners. School buses are also not a great solution with the threat of COVID contamination - so having safe routes for our children to get to school should remain a priority for the city.

Thank you in advance,  
John

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.219.200

**From:** [Joan Jacobs via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 10:56:02 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Joan Jacobs (jsjsjacobs@gmail.com) on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 09:56:00

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address: 579 Sagamore Ave #20

comments: I am a Portsmouth resident. I was trained in public health and worked in the field for more than 30 years. Basic tenets for controlling an epidemic--send the public clear and consistent messages and impede the spread of the contagion. That is why we need our city government to enact a mask mandate. Masks do prevent the virus' spread. And people will take science-based guidance seriously if it is issued in a clear and consistent manner. I'm very disappointed with the dysfunctional gridlock displayed by this Council. If Nashua, Newmarket, Durham and Exeter can enact a face mask mandate why not Portsmouth?

Two events illuminate the impact of the Council's dithering. 1) Valerie Rochon from the Greater Portsmouth Chamber Collaborative was on WSCA Thursday morning. She was very clear: business owners want a city ordinance requiring customers to wear face coverings in their shops. With a law on the books, it will be easier for them to deal with noncompliant people. 2) I read about the couple who refused to wear masks to vote at the Ward 4 polling location even when an outdoor option was offered, a stunt amplified by the bogus claim that the Ward moderator had no authority because there's no law requiring masks at polling locations.

You were elected to be lawmakers, to enact city ordinances as dictated by events. Navel-gazing and inventing far-fetched scenarios are irresponsible delay tactics. So I implore the Mayor and Council members: stop passing the buck to election volunteers, local business owners, and good Samaritans! Pass a mask mandate ordinance ASAP.

Joan Jacobs

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.225.54

**From:** [Larry Drake via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Mask mandate  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 10:00:33 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Larry Drake (larrydrake57@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 09:00:31

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address: 579 Sagamore Ave., Unit 20, Portsmouth

comments: Dear City Councilors,  
You have been deliberating for weeks now about a mask mandate. I believe it is now time for you to act and pass such a mandate for the city of Portsmouth. Public health officials are clear that such a mandate is part of the way to respond to a pandemic. Valerie Rochon was recently on Seacoast Currents, the radio show that I co-host with Kathy Sommsich, and was adamant that the business owners want such a mandate. You ran for office to make the tough decisions. Now please step up and deal with this pressing matter without further delay. Thank you very much.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

-----  
REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.225.54

**From:** [Patricia Bagley via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** mask mandate  
**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2020 9:02:07 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Patricia Bagley (patbagley@aol.com) on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 08:02:05

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address: 213 Pleasant St

comments: Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

I have delayed in writing regarding the mask mandate because I've almost given up. Who cares what one citizen thinks anyway. However, I've just read through the City Council packet of emails, and feel compelled to support those requesting a mask mandate.

Portsmouth often talks about being a leader. Not this time when lives depend upon it. One of the joys of living close to downtown is the ability to traverse it on foot. I am more fortunate than many to have the ability to stimulate our local economy, and do so willingly. I'd prefer to pay a bit more to support our local businesses. After all, we are a team, aren't we? The citizens and our bustling small city. Team Portsmouth. The tourists come and go, but we remain. We cherish the businesses we have. It has been months, with very few exceptions, that I've shopped. When I have, it has been through a self-created detour of side streets to access Congress St. to avoid as many people as possible. Walking between Bow St. and Market Square is a joke. Forget Market Square.

Many more people are now wearing masks, yes, but that varies from day-to-day. We needed a mandate three months ago. We need it now. The retailers are doing their part, but we can't airdrop into their stores. One cannot jump into the street to avoid the maskless because there are now diners in parking spaces. The City has made tremendous effort to support the dining establishments. The City has supported PopUp. Retailers seem to have been ignored (even at PopUp until just last week).

I don't want PPD spending their time on this either, but we are not seeking perfection. We should be following the science. Just tell people a mask is REQUIRED. There will always be the outliers.

Thank you for listening.  
Pat Bagley

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 173.44.100.248

**From:** [Dixie Tarbell via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:57:58 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Dixie Tarbell (dixiemcleantarbell@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 08:57:56  
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address: 25 Driftwood Lane

comments: The unmasked couple who insisted on voting indoors, even though they had the option to vote outdoors, demonstrated that we need an enforceable, legally binding mask ordinance in order to proactively protect Portsmouth's public health. Sanford, Maine's City Council responsibly enacted a \$100 fine for noncompliance, courageously and conscientiously taking care of residents by maximizing the odds for protection from a highly contagious, serious threat to our health and lives. Thank you for taking a decisive stand for our community's benefit!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.221.160

**From:** [Ken Goldman via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Mask Ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 11:41:57 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Ken Goldman (krgoldman@comcast.net) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 10:41:55

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address: 271 Islington Street, Portsmouth NH 03801

comments: I understand that the Portsmouth City Council plans to vote on a Mask Mandate tonight (Monday, September 14, 2020). I also understand that, as currently written, the ordinance would take effect on passage, BUT Mayor Rick Becksted has floated the idea of passing the ordinance and immediately shelving it until a public health emergency has been declared.

Masks have been shown to be an effective deterrent to the spread of COVID-19. Quoting from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) webpage, "...CDC reviewed the latest science and affirms that cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the disease, particularly when used universally within communities. There is increasing evidence that cloth face coverings help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others..."

I feel it would be foolish and counterproductive to pass an ordinance and then shelve it, especially now that we are seeing an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in New Hampshire.. A mask ordinance can not only work to save lives, but will also help protect many of the employees working at local businesses who receive abuse when they ask customers to wear masks.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 75.68.182.8

**From:** [Lawrence Cataldo via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Masks & Bridge Street Pop-up  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:36:41 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Lawrence Cataldo (larrycataldo@yahoo.com) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 09:36:39

-----  
address: 133 Islington Street, Portsmouth

comments: Dear Members of the City Council,  
I have two comments:

1. Please vote in favor of the mask ordinance. The virus is still with us, with a rise in the number of test-positive cases in the state and especially at UNH with 100+ cases so far this semester (hundreds quarantined). Please protect the employees who serve the public in retail establishments. They deserve it. It will also ease the burden for establishment owners. Chief Merner's approach to enforcement is spot on – educate the public and those who violate the ordinance.

2. Many of us want to see the Portsmouth Pop UP on Bridge Street a successful venture. To cut it off in October, in my opinion, would be very premature. The potential loss of parking revenue is speculative at best given the proximity of the Foundry Garage nearby; the likely shortfall in revenue can't even begin to offset the hours and days of hard work by many volunteers to make this a success - a true community effort. Let it continue into the holiday season and see if a Christmas Market is viable.

Parking revenues are already down with fewer visitors coming into Portsmouth. The Foundry Garage is operating well below its designed capacity and any expectation of achieving \$50,000 per Bridge Street parking space has long since gone, thanks to the pandemic. Hence, I believe the parking argument is spurious at best.

However, finding another location for Portsmouth Pop Up has merit. My own thought is to close a portion of Market Square to give Portsmouth the atmosphere of a Christmas Market (Weihnachtmarkt) in New Hampshire. It can be made more vibrant with more available space.

We need to give our merchants a boost with the holiday season approaching.

Sincerely

Lawrence Cataldo

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 67.85.230.226



**From:** [Rita Bowlby via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Masks  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 6:30:10 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Rita Bowlby (,ritabowlby@gmail.com) on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 17:30:06  
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address: 579 Sagamore Avenue

comments: I fully support Joan Jacobâ€™s recent letter to the Portsmouth Herald urging a plea to pass an order to require masks be worn in public. It is evident that doing so protects us from spreading and containing the COVID virus. Such an easy remedy, such dereliction of duty to not do so. I urge you to act as your duty to protect us.  
Rita Bowlby  
Portsmouth, NH

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.149.192.167

**From:** [Bill Kennedy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle St. Bike Lane  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 7:33:15 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Bill Kennedy (bk47gh@comcast.net) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 06:33:14

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address: 25 Dovetail Lane; Dover NH

comments: One purpose of the council is to protect all citizens of Portsmouth. If a vehicle runs into another vehicle because they don't want to be inconvenienced by slowing down, or they are parked illegally, metal is bent, but the odds of injury are slight. If a car runs into a bicyclist at 30 mph, the cyclist is severely injured and there's about 40% chance of a fatality. The present location of the bike lane protects cyclists. Follow the recommendations of your experts.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.107.146

**From:** [James LaJeunesse via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle Street Bike Lane  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 11:22:16 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
James LaJeunesse (jimlaj@gmail.com) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 22:22:14

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address: 161 Thornton St

comments: Do not move or modify the Middle Street bike lane! Additional bike lanes are needed in our city, not less.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.223.144

**From:** [Christina Wilkinson via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle Street Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 12:43:26 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Christina Wilkinson ([tinaandkeith@gmail.com](mailto:tinaandkeith@gmail.com)) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 11:43:24

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address: 62 Winter St

comments: I am writing to express my SUPPORT for the Middle Street bike lanes. I have two children, Middle School and High School, who regularly use the bike lanes to commute to school or practice, and I use them as well. There has been a noticeable improvement in safety since the bike lanes were installed, though the improvements have already been diminished when the original bollards were decreased significantly. The thinning of the roadway has also slowed down traffic, by design, and that has also improved the area for pedestrians and walkers as well. Before the bike lanes, residents who traveled this corridor had the choice of either riding along the cars on the road, using the sidewalk, or crossing the busy street to use Lincoln or another side street. For those with children, the choice was often the sidewalk, which resulted in bikes and pedestrians sharing the same, often thin, sidewalk. I understand that the bike lane design is unusual for this area, and does!

not look like what we are familiar with, but the ultimate question is whether our residents are safer. I would say we are. The council has many pressing matters before them right now. I don't think this is one of them.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 12.226.25.67

**From:** [Marc Hopkins via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle Street bike lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 1:28:26 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Marc Hopkins (marchopkins28@hotmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12:28:24

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address: 230 Crescent Way

comments: I am opposed to Councilor Huda's motion to eradicate the safety buffer on the Middle Street bike lanes by returning parked cars to the curb. I believe that returning parked cars to the curb will endanger cyclists rather than protect them.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.186.74.134

**From:** [Gerald Duffy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Middle Street Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 1:24:02 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Gerald Duffy (gduffy44@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12:07:45

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address: 428 Pleasant St., Unit 3

comments: Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilors:

Following my earlier email on this topic, several Councilors have written back and complained that they too have been supporters of adhering to City policy and goals and expanding our cycling infrastructure. That was my fault for not being clearer.

In the earlier email I am referring specifically to the effort to undo the bike lane project. I'm only the mouthpiece for a community of Portsmouth residents who care about cyclist safety. The stakes here are very high; we all know it but the Council hasn't clearly acknowledged that. In this context, as far as this community is concerned, we have yet to hear an explicit reframing of this issue in terms of the more important, bigger picture.

I apologize to Councilors Lazenby and McEachern and assistant Mayor Splaine who in the past, in other contexts, have supported and called for improving our facilities to keep cyclists safe. We need their continued support and I hope I haven't jeopardized that.

Regarding Councilor Huda's motion, however, I stick to my earlier comments. People who care about this safety issue are furious that a Councilor could be so reckless. That's what you are hearing. Do an audit of all the emails you've received since March and you will find an overwhelming majority support the Middle St. project. We're just not hearing that reflected on the dais. We hope that will change.

Warm regards,  
Gerald Duffy

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.87.81

**From:** [Gerald Duffy via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please Defeat Councilor Huda's Motion Regarding the Middle Street Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 1:13:12 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Gerald Duffy (gduffy44@gmail.com) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 12:13:10

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address: 428 Pleasant St, Unit 3

comments: Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilors:

A few comments about Councilor Huda's so-called "fact sheet" in the Council packet for your September 14 Council meeting.

The statistics are not current and are misleading. The points she raises come from a sympathetic engineer and almost all of them have been taken seriously and responded to by the City's Planning Department staff and already addressed in previous documents.

Councilor Huda has wandered into a domain where she has no expertise. For one example, the 85% percentile method which Councilor Huda refers to is antiquated old gold standard for determining what constitutes safe travel speed by vehicles. It is totally inadequate for 21st century planning because it is based solely on the comfort level of drivers. It has nothing to do with the safety needs of pedestrians or cyclists. The method is quickly being replaced here and abroad by the "Vision Zero" method which focuses more on the actual impact of vehicles when they strike vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists at different speeds. The City of Boston, for example, is now using Vision Zero for planning, as are a growing number of US towns and cities.

I'm sorry to have to put this so starkly, but to imply that the bike lanes somehow contributed to the recent "dooring" accident on Middle Street is simply a demonstrable lie.

But most importantly, this Council was sworn in to adhere to and realize existing Council policies regarding the City's multi-modal plans for transportation now and in the future. I have yet to hear any Councilor other than Councilor Tabor refer to the overarching principles and guidance found in our policy documents. Councilor Huda suggests that there's some kind of agenda out there to "trade in vehicles for bikes." Forget agendas and think policy. After years of work, including much public input via forums like Portsmouth Listens, the City now has clear policies. The Council's job is to either enact them or change them, but that doesn't include interfering with individual projects. I sincerely hope the Council defeats this potentially dangerous motion.

Gerald Duffy

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.87.81

**From:** [Nicole Downing via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep bike riders safely!  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 5:59:25 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Nicole Downing (Downingaug@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 04:59:23

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address: 17 Butler Way Middleton NH

comments: Please consider keeping parking off downtown area curbs. With the amount of through traffic there it will be more dangerous for drivers and extremely dangerous for bike riders! I'm sure that fire/police and locals do not want to witness a severe injury and/or loss of life that may have been avoided. I myself would like to continue to visit Portsmouth area and businesses and continue riding my bicycle safely through... especially if I'm considering having my 11yr old son ride too!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 74.74.154.96



**From:** [Kirsten Hunter via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Please keep the bike lanes!  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 9:19:55 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kirsten Hunter (kirhunter@gmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 08:19:53

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address: 136 Cabot St

comments: As a mother of a high school freshman bicyclist and resident of Portsmouth, I am writing to express my support of the bike lanes. My older son (age 20) attended PHS prior to the installation the bike lanes and I worried about his safety every day. Middle street was NOT safe for bicycling prior to the bike lane improvement. Like others have noted, I have seen an increase in cyclists over the years and even more so in the past 5 months. Moving cyclists back in proximity to the moving auto traffic is a terrible idea.

Living on Cabot Street it is much safer now pulling out onto Middle since the installation of bike lanes, both on a bike and in a car, and the more narrow roadway has helped slow down traffic that has always tended toward speeding.

Encouraging young people to ride bikes is good for them and good for our city, and the bike lanes are keeping them so much safer!

Please do not throw away this improvement and place our children back in harms way.

Thank you for your service to our city.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.104.12

**From:** [Peter and Kerry Rubinstein via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pop up NH  
**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2020 4:08:04 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Peter and Kerry Rubinstein (kerry@turtlebrook.com) on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 15:08:02

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address: 111 Bridge Street #201

comments: We supported the temporary Pop Up in the Bridge Street lot, but we are opposed to creating a permanent performance space. No one from the city consulted with neighboring buildings before creating the temporary Pop Up and we expect that adjacent property owner's voices will be heard regarding any further development in that space. Because it is temporary we have been tolerant of the amplified music which is blasted just outside our bedroom windows each weekend evening. And we have been tolerant of increased litter, and loiterers on our property. We applaud the city's efforts to support local artists, restaurants and shops during the pandemic. But this must not be a license to segue to a permanent performance space without proper review.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 74.71.109.113

**From:** [Kathy Briggs via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Pop Up performance space  
**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2020 8:29:53 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kathy Briggs (k2pfs77@gmail.com) on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 07:29:51  
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address: 111 Bridge Street Portsmouth

comments: I am writing as a citizen of Portsmouth, and I would like to start by commending the City for the efforts it has taken to assist businesses during the COVID-19 epidemic. These are challenging times, and I appreciate that the City government has tackled some very difficult agendas in order to provide relief and assistance to our business owners.

We moved here because we love the life that Portsmouth offers. The restaurants, the shops, the cultural activities, the camaraderie that normally resides in a small town, but is evident here in this wonderful city.

We purchased a condo in downtown Portsmouth, facing the Bridge Street parking lot. It has been a perfect spot for us; we can walk everywhere, and it is quiet in the evenings. We have a beautiful rooftop deck (the biggest reason for our purchase) that overlooks the Discover Portsmouth Center, has a view of the steeple on Congress Street, and is our haven to relax and enjoy our outdoor space after a long day, or on the weekends.

That being said, we supported the Bridge Street Parking lot being repurposed during COVID for the Portsmouth PopUp. We have donated to the cause, and we wholeheartedly support the concept of helping these businesses and non-profits thru this terribly impacted economy.

However, many of the neighbors in this section of town, while supporting the efforts of PopUp, do not support the concept of it becoming a Permanent Ground Lease. I read with dismay in the Portsmouth Herald that plans were under way to make this a permanent plan, and that it would be open year round except for the first few frigid months of the year.

I want to go on record as saying that because my husband and I supported this idea during such unprecedented times, does not in any way mean that we agree with having a performance space across the street from our home. The performances that have taken place, with limited seating allowed, have been so loud that there is no possible way to enjoy our deck, and in fact we can't hear anything but the performers in our indoor living spaces. This would be totally unacceptable were it to become permanent. We didn't invest in Portsmouth, both in the purchase of our home, and in choosing to offer financial support to many of the charities and non-profits here, to potentially be permanently living directly across the street from an open performance space.

Additionally, the "view" from our home has been negatively impacted. Again, we can certainly live with that on a TEMPORARY basis, because we want to be good neighbors and we want to see our Portsmouth businesses and non-profits survive. But we are very upset to think that this will be allowed to exist beyond the current, unprecedented situation. We didn't move here to overlook porta-potties, and metal fencing, and we certainly didn't move here to have such loud music right next door.

I hope that you will reconsider the taxpayers who live around that parking lot, and how negatively impacted their properties, and their lives, could be by allowing this to become a permanent fixture at that location.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kathy Briggs

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 67.189.239.176

**From:** [Jennifer Glover via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Middle St bike lane  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 2:01:29 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jennifer Glover (Jesglover@yahoo.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 13:01:27

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address: 226 Raleigh Way

comments: As a Portsmouth resident and avid cyclist, I think the Middle St bike lane should be kept. The recent cardoor vs cyclist incident is not a justification for changing the lane. Cyclists are more at risk from driver's side strikes. Please listen to the traffic experts and those of us who ride in our beautiful town and save the lane. Change is hard, but adding the bike lane was and is a change in the right direction for Portsmouth.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 64.140.218.230

**From:** [Elizabeth Kinney via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Stop the mandatory Masks outside  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 1:27:55 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Elizabeth Kinney (marylandbeth07@hotmail.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 12:27:54

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address: 337 Thornotn St

comments: I am reaching out again imploring you to stop the mandate to make masks mandatory outside. I am unable to wear a masks. Also, my son has difficulties with speech and as a 3 year old it is impossible for him to understand or wear a mask as well. I respect private businesses and have gone out fo my way to not shop in any business that has requested mandatory masks of its customers. That means since this began, to the detriment of Portsmouth, I have done basically no shopping in Portsmouth and gone out of my way to shop elsewhere or order online. But if you enact this, I will now risk having the police called on me for me and my son merely going for a walk in our neighborhood. This is absolutely unnecessary. This is wrong for the people. Our police don't need this burden. We don't need to have citizens fighting citizens. As of 9/13, we have 307 active cases in New Hampshire. This is out of approximate 1.3 million people who live here. There are 7 people hospitalized.!

The lockdown was started to for "two weeks" so that we could allow time for the hospitals to prepare and not get overwhelmed. The models were wrong, the hospitals have not been overwhelmed. Please stop the tyranny and overreach for the sake of society. If hospitalizations were to rise, then this issue could easily be revisited again if needed.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.105.234

**From:** [Charley LaFlamme via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Middle St Bicycle Lane!  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 8:36:23 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Charley LaFlamme (chazbikeed@maine.rr.com) on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 07:36:20

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address: 423 North Village Rd Ogunquit, ME 03907

comments: Dear Portsmouth City Council, please don't dismantle the good work done on Middle St. I live approximately 16 miles from Portsmouth & frequently travel to your beautiful city. Just last week I again peddled my bicycle there & enjoyed a coffee in Market Square with friends. It would be sad to have the city remove or change significantly the Middle St Bike Lane that so much work & planning went into to do it the right way. Thank you, Charley LaFlamme, Founder, Bicycle Coalition of Maine & Chair, Ogunquit Bicycle Pedestrian Committee

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 169.244.83.193

**From:** [Mary Lou McElwain via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Unmasked at Ward 4  
**Date:** Saturday, September 12, 2020 7:21:59 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Mary Lou McElwain (MI259@comcast.net) on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 06:21:57

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address: 259 South Street

comments: Good Morning,

At Ward 5 this past Tuesday, two residents who did not come together, objected to wearing masks indoors. Our Moderator Brian Wazlaw firmly and without hesitation convinced each that a station was set up outdoors for anyone to vote who refused to wear a mask. The city has an ordinance mandating mask wearing in all municipal buildings and Brian was able to talk these two voters into respecting that mandate and the health of workers and voters in the building.

At ward 4 the moderator ( I donâ€™t Know who that is) apparently relinquished his/her responsibility to the public and allowed two voters to enter the polling place without masks, thereby jeopardizing the health and safety of others indoors. This was wrong and should be addressed by City Council. This moderator set a precedent for the November election which is not fair to the dozens of us who work at the polls.

Please address this infraction and how the city plans to go forward with this specific mandate.

Thank you.

Mary Lou McElwain  
Selectperson, Ward 5

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.15.119



**From:** [Michael Sanders via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Vehement opposition to mask mandate  
**Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2020 3:30:01 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Michael Sanders (Mikejsand80@yahoo.com) on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 14:29:59

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address: 10 Marjorie St

comments: Once again, I write to state opposition to the shameful yet ongoing discussion to a mask mandate.

The numbers don't lie. After a summer of tourists, Portsmouth recorded a high of 15 active cases at one time and has since plummeted possibly more than 90% to between one and four. And this despite the new villain of college kids arriving in Durham. The positive numbers there, while rising, are wholly expected and have yet to cause any issue in surrounding communities because current policies are sufficient.

I and most will always comply with polite business rules if asked to wear a mask. A mask mandate is nothing more than political virtue signaling. Wear one if you want, but if yours won't work unless I'm wearing one outside when never, ever closer than six feet for more than 15 minutes, then instead of attempting to legislate your political views onto others, wear goggles and a face shield or stay home. The entitlement and selfishness is astonishing.

There is no health emergency. Single digit state hospitalizations. Barely more than 9000 deaths solely from covid (granted I acknowledge the sadness of the other 170000 Americans who died early with an average of 2.4 other health issues covid made worse and died).

No to mask mandates. Yes to masks if businesses ask (trespassing calls to police for non-compliance). Keep your politics and paranoia to yourself.

Also, don't waste my tax dollars on enforcing and legally defending an unneeded mandate.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 132.177.196.99

**From:** [Shapn Nichols via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Water Drought  
**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 6:40:18 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Shapn Nichols (Shashanichols@gmail.com) on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 17:40:16

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address: 903 White Cedar Blvd

comments: I realize we have a significant drought in the City of Portsmouth. I work a 3:00 - 11:00:pm shift at the Pease Trade Port. When I drive home the water irrigation system is on at the Portsmouth Toyota Dealership. It seems totally unnecessary to water the grass at a car dealership during a drought. I could feel okay about watering the ballfields at the corner of Hslington and Middle St or the local parks and playgrounds and Prescott Park but really a car dealership? Is this the message we want to be conveying as a responsible community. The location is a main access way, to our community. is this a message we want to be affirming?

Sharon Nichols,  
Ward 4

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.14.200

**From:** [Jim Bolton via FormMail.com](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Water restrictions  
**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2020 8:10:08 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jim Bolton (ezbikin@gmail.com) on Friday, September 11, 2020 at 07:10:07

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address: 1173 Woodbury Ave

comments: I would suggest that the odd-day midnight to 10 am restriction on watering gardens is overly-burdensome for homeowners watering food gardens. It will be virtually impossible for a person working for a living to water during those times. Perhaps, as the City Council mandated unanimously in 2016, homeowners should be allowed to water as needed, but not by overhead watering, only by hand-held hose or drip/soaker hose irrigation, which allows watering to the root zone, and is the most efficient and least-wasteful method available.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.7.77