

CITIZENS' RESPONSE TASK FORCE
Brainstorming Session
October 26, 2020

OBJECTIVES: To consider priority needs for businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and how the Citizens' Response Task Force (CRTF) can best support those needs;

To provide that input to the City Council in support of the planned 11/09/2020 work session to determine a possible extension of the CRTF's efforts.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE CRTF in 2021

1. Continue the CRTF through at least the summer of 2021 if not the entire year under the assumption that pandemic-related issues will continue to impact the city.
 - a. Current Task Force members who are interested in continuing will make their intent known pending approval by the City Council. It is also recognized that the City Council may have other candidates they wish to appoint new members with different skills and experiences.
 - b. Recommend that the City Council develop attendance requirements for Task Force members.
 - c. Non-residents who have a vested interest in the city due to local business, restaurants, services or arts and cultural organizations should be eligible for participation in the Task Force
2. Extend the mask mandate into 2021 as informed by federal, state and local data and guidance.
3. Maintain the Health Subcommittee in its role of supporting Portsmouth's Health Director and staff by monitoring and publishing COVID data as well as periodically updated public FAQs.
4. In support of impacted employees (e.g., loss of short-term income due to quarantine) identify sources of financial assistance and support (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, creative child care options) and publish that information regularly
5. Working with the City staff extend and support outdoor permits wherever/whenever possible through the winter months and into the spring
6. Assist the city and the chamber to educate consumers and businesses on best practices for reducing risks which will also build consumer confidence for indoor dining, shopping and other indoor services
7. Forward, proactive planning for spring and summer outdoor dining, arts and culture and leisure activities: evaluate lessons learned and identify challenges and opportunities, perhaps with a reimagining of how outdoor dining is approached in the coming year.
8. Expand focus of CRTF to encompass all impacted business segments
9. Recommend the allocation of City funds as needed for approved Task Force projects