

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

ADDENDUM

Received: February 4, 2021 (after 9:00 a.m.) – February 8, 2021 (5:00 p.m.)

February 8, 2021 Council Meeting

New content:

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Richard DiPentima (rdipentima@gmail.com) on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 09:06:08

address: 16 Dunlin Way

comments: I totally support the initiative of Tom Morgan and the sustainability Committee to explore the expansion of solar farms in Portsmouth. there are a number of sites within the City that could be appropriately used for this purpose. In my neighborhood near Osprey Landing there are two large unused parcels land on either side of a closed road that would be excellent sites. the land begins at the end of Portsmouth Blvd., and extends about 1/3 mile to the end of Dunlin Way. The total section is currently closed to vehicle traffic. The land is zoned office/research. I am not aware of the ownership of either parcel. I request that this site be explored as a possible solar farm location..

Thank you for your consideration.
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Gregory LaCamera (greglacamera@gmail.com) on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 14:24:43

address: 34 Rock Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

comments: The Islington Phase 2 (Dover to Congress) continues to be delayed. This process started in 1997, 24 years ago. Recently, it was delayed in early 2017. Residents/Businesses came and voiced their opinions. The result was moving it to FY22 from FY24... then it was moved to FY25 in late 2018. Rebecca Perkins graciously raised this delay in March 2019 and it was moved back up to FY22. In 2020 moved to FY24. It is now back to FY27. Residents and Businesses deserve better. We want our tax dollars used for this project. Please move it back to FY22.

As stated in the CIP since 2012 (9 years ago): "Impact on Operating Budget is Negligible (<\$5,001)".

Also stated in the CIP since 2012 CIP (9 years ago): "Priority A (needed (needed within 0 to 3 years))".

Here is the timeline... we are looking at 30+ years from start to finish:

1997 - Islington Streetscape Study, Sherman Grenier Halle, 8/12/17, p. 9

2003 - Islington plans referenced in the Master Plan

2009 - Completed Islington Corridor Improvement Action Plan

2012 - CIP Adopted on March 19th, 2012: TSM-CITY/NHDOT-31: ROADWAY: Islington Street Improvements with funding FY13 and construction starting FY14

2013 - CIP Adopted February 19th, 2013: TSM-CITY/NHDOT-24: ROADWAY: Islington Street Improvements with funding FY13 and construction starting FY14

2014 - CIP Adopted February 18, 2014: TSM-CITY/NHDOT-26: ROADWAY: Islington Street Improvements with funding FY14 and construction starting FY14

2015 - CIP Adopted February 17, 2015: TSM-CITY/NHDOT-26: ROADWAY: Islington Street Improvements with final design is underway with the first phase of improvements starting at Congress St. with construction anticipated Summer 2015.

2016 - CIP Adopted March 14, 2016: TSM-PW-33: ISLINGTON STREET IMPROVEMENTS with Ffinal design is underway with the first phase of improvements starting at Congress St. with construction anticipated Summer 2016.

2017 - CIP Adopted March 7, 2017: TSM-PW-35: ISLINGTON STREET IMPROVEMENTS with final design is underway with the first phase of improvements starting at Congress St. with construction anticipated Summer 2017.

2018 - moved to FY25, after input from residents had it moved to FY22; it was then moved back to FY22 based on feedback

2019 - moved to FY24, after input in 2018 had it moved to FY22; it was then moved back to FY22 (again) based on feedback

2020 - moved to FY24

2021 - moved to FY27

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Robin Husslage (rhusslage@hotmail.com) on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 18:43:38

address: 27 Rock Street

comments: Dear Portsmouth City Councilors,

I was shocked to learn today that Phase 2 of the Islington Street Corridor Improvements Project which was originally scheduled to begin in 2022 has now been pushed out to 2027! While I am appreciative of the Phase 1A work which has been done from the Route 1 Bypass to Albany Street and that Phase 1B will be started soon, the majority of these improvements benefit the commercial section of Islington. Given that these projects are largely funded by property taxes paid by residents like me whose taxes have been jumping up by large amounts every year, I object to this project being delayed by 5 years when other projects, benefiting more commercial parts of Portsmouth, have been slotted ahead of this project which benefits the more residential portion of Islington. Residents already pay the lion's share of property taxes which fund this city and its projects and many are being priced out of town because of this. When you review the proposed CIP '22-'27, please object to this 5-ye!

ar delay of Phase 2 of the Islington Improvement Project. It's time to do what's right for the residents who live in the neighborhoods flanking this portion of Islington Street and return this project to its original 2022 start date!

With regards and appreciation for all you do for our City,
Robin

Robin Husslage
27 Rock Street
Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Dr. Angela Lambert (drangela@mac.com) on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 20:22:27

address: 249 Islington St., #10

comments: Hello - as a business owner on Islington, I have been waiting with anticipation the repair and improvements promised for quite some time now. The sidewalks on Islington, especially in front of my building, are atrocious and quite dangerous. I treat many elderly patients and often have to escort them into my office for their appointments to ensure that they do not slip and fall on these uneven walkways. I have waited through traffic, constructions delays and am quite distressed at the possibility of delaying this project out by even 1 year let alone 5 years. For what reason? None that make sense. Yet condo after condo after condo gets erected. I pay my taxes and it is time to finish this job, Please consider we business owners who have been waiting and tolerating horrific sidewalks and roads on Islington Street for far too long. Thank you.
includeInRecords: on

From: Arthur Bruinooge <abruinooge@me.com>
Date: February 6, 2021 at 8:09:16 PM EST
To: Nancy Colbert Puff <NColbertPuff@cityofportsmouth.com>
Subject: Islington Rd Project delayed.

City Council,

I understand that this project was first proposed in 1997 and the initial target date was the summer of 2016. Why is the City now proposing to delay this for the fifth time, postponing it to the 2027? Residents in the affected areas have been patiently waiting for a long time while improvements are scheduled and completed in newer neighborhoods.

Arthur Bruinooge
291 Islington St

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ken Goldman (barbken@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 08:45:12

address: 271 Islington Street

comments: I understand that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be reviewed in this evening's City Council meeting includes a delay of the Islington Street Corridor Reconstruction Project Phase 2 (Dover to Congress) to FY 2027. This is unacceptable!

Islington Street is one of the gateways into the city. Phase 1 has created an attractive entrance into our city, which now, unfortunately, will end at Dover Street.

As I'm sure you are aware, this process started in 1997, 24 years ago! A delay until 2027, will mean a thirty year span from conception to the start of Phase 2!

The recent history of this project has been one of frequently changing schedules. It was delayed in early 2017, but, after residents voiced their opinions, it was moved to FY22 from FY24. After that, it was very quietly moved to FY25 in late 2018 with no public input. In March 2019 and it was moved back up to FY22, then, again quietly back to FY24. Now, with Phase 1 almost completed, Phase 2 is being delayed to FY27! Again, that is unacceptable.

I respectfully request that the City Council move Phase 2 back to FY24, and stop bouncing the schedule around like a ping pong ball! This is an important project, and work should begin no later than FY24.

Thank you,
Ken Goldman
271 Islington Street
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Andrew Bagley (abagley21@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 10:06:17

address: 40 Chauncey Street

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors, Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable.

Please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion " move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020) And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

Best regards,
Andrew Bagley

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Dave Mitchell (dave@amaruq.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 10:54:47

address: 1179 Maplewood Avenue

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors, Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable.

Please do not make this change.

Also, please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion " move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020) And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

thank you,
D.W.Mitchell

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Betty Gilman (Betty277@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 10:59:32

address: 277 Coolidge Drive

comments: The support of all people working and living in Portsmouth is not reflected in the proposed parking ticket increase to \$50. Please vote NO!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mary Susan Dsigle (sdaigle@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:05:39

address: 77 State St #401

comments: Coty Councilors

Please vote NO on raising parking tickets from \$15 to \$50. This puts undue stress on city workers who are struggling hard enough during the pandemic..

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jessica Bacon (jessicabacon777@hotmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:05:49

address: 159 Austin Street #4 Portsmouth NH

comments: Hi There,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing in regard to the proposed parking fee increases. Please do not raise the fee for an expired meter from \$15 to \$50 - that is a 233% increase! We want to encourage people to come to our beautiful city and park downtown, and raising the fee by this much is not encouraging at all. This is a tax on the poor - if you don't have much money, \$50 is a HUGE penalty to pay for an expired meter. If you have a lot of money, it's really not a big deal. Please, I implore you, reject this increase.

Best

Jessica Bacon

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ankati Day (hey.there.day@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:08:56

address: 36 Slate Hill Rd, Eliot, ME

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors,

Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is absolutely unreasonable. For those of us who work in downtown but cannot afford to live there, parking is already enough of a challenge. If you raise the tickets to \$50, you're likely going to impact the employees who work here more than anyone else. We are the ones who get stuck at work a little too long and the meter runs out. We are the ones also visiting the coffee shops and restaurants to fuel our lives while we're in town. And we are the ones who could be broken by a couple of \$50 parking tickets. Please keep the tickets as they are.

However, I ask that you please vote to pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion " move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020) And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

Here's to a brighter future for Portsmouth.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Susan Dewhirst (sdewhirst04@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:09:25

address: 44 CLIFF RD

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors, Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable. Please make a plan for City parking to be available to city residents and downtown service employees.

Also, please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion “ move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020) And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Alexis Lang (alexis.lang@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:14:45

address: 400 FW Hartford Dr

comments: Dear Councilors,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to increase fines for expired meters from \$15 to \$50. This is primarily going to hurt downtown workers who are already struggling under the effects of the pandemic. I think our Council should be working to try to make downtown workers' lives easier, not increasing their potential burdens. Also, it seems to me that blocking a fire hydrant is a much more serious offense than parking too long in a legal parking space. The fact that that fine would remain at \$25 while an expired meter fine would more than triple seems wildly out of balance.

Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Kara (karadellorusso@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:15:07

address: 170 Commerce Way Portsmouth, NH

comments: Hi there,

Increasing the parking ticket fee from 15 to 50 is a tax on the poor. Please don't allow this to pass,

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by LAURA BROOKE KEITH (lkeith@diversiongames.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:23:47

address: 20 Middle St, South Berwick. Business located at 123 Congress St.

comments: As a business owner downtown, the proposed parking ticket increase from \$15 to \$50 is abhorrent, and I cannot express how much I contest this. Businesses downtown are already struggling with the pandemic, and even before COVID it has been extremely difficult to encourage local community members to shop downtown due to parking concerns. Perceived lack of parking and concerns over the tenacity of parking enforcement has been a constant mention of why people refuse to shop downtown, and more than a threefold increase in penalties will do nothing but further encourage customers to stay away from downtown.

In addition, our employees have very little access to parking near their worksites, and may need to pay to park. They cannot guarantee they will be able to move their cars as required, and risk receiving a ticket that would, at times, negate their shift.

This proposal does nothing but hinder the ability of business owners to maintain a workforce and customer base. Please help us stay in business - as a group, we are holding on by a thread.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jessica Jean (jessjean1@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:28:01

address: 21 Spinnaker Way

comments: I do not think the violations for parking tickets for expired meters/time limits should increase from \$15 to \$50. This is a significant increase and I believe would deter people from trying to making routine purchases and pickups from downtown stores and restaurants. At this time we need to push for the community to support downtown to keep our town vibrant and diverse, and to keep our businesses local. I do not think this action supports our community.

I would be willing to support increases for parking violations that impact the safety and flow of traffic. For example, increasing the fee for blocking a fire hydrant, blocking a driveway or obstructing traffic. How can the city council really believe that an expired meter should be a more expensive violation than blocking a fire hydrant or the fire station driveway?

I am continually disappointed in the agenda of this current city council.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jessica Patten (Jesspatten@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:28:37

address: 250 Clinton St Portsmouth NH 03801

comments: I am strongly against raising parking fees as proposed. An increase from \$15 to \$50 for an expired meter is a huge and unreasonable increase. Please consider downtown workers and residents. If you want to profit from tourists then offer resident and worker permits.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Lucas McKenna (mckennaluke@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:31:11

address: 126B Wibird St

comments: Increasing parking ticket costs to \$50 is wholly unnecessary.

An increase like this will only further hinder civilian and residents' financial security, it will create more contested ticket cases (increased legal proceeding costs), and would likely dissuade visitors from returning to the city or staying in town longer to shop.

The only positive of this change is viewed from the perspective of the governing body, whose primary function is to advocate for the governed people.

Please do not move forward with this ticket increase.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Rebecca Earle (Cotillionbureau@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:31:44

address: 23 orchard drive durham

comments: Hello, as a downtown business owner and person who tries their best to properly manage their downtown parking I am contacting you to let you know that I think increasing tickets from \$15-\$50 is outrageous. It's not uncommon for me to pay to park until 15 min after closing and for a customer to linger a bit too long in the shop- at this point I have to either chance the ticket to make the sale, kick them out, or leave them alone in the shop to pay for another hour so I can have 10 extra minutes. Chancing the \$15 ticket

to make a sale is one thing but a \$50 ticket would likely cost more than the sale itself. The cost of doing business in this city is already high and super challenging in this current pandemic infused economy... this proposed increase feels really extreme. Couldn't you just increase to \$20 if you must at all? You may suggest parking in the garage and I do park there most of the time. Nonetheless, as I transport the majority of my store inventory myself, I frequently need to be parked near my shop to manage moving inventory in and out. If tickets are going to be \$50 will you be countering that with free or reduced rate worker parking? Please city council, please do not make it harder to do business right now... we are barely surviving.

Regards,

Rebeca Earle

Owner

Cotillion Bureau Vintage

65 Bow Street

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Alison Fortin (alifortin75@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:33:17

address: 273 Maplewood Ave, Apt 3

comments: Please do not increase the fine on expired meter from 15 to 50. Everyone makes mistakes and I have this is too high.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Angela Barnes (Angela.d.barnes10@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:38:36

address: 91 Langdon Street

comments: Parking fees should NOT be increased from \$15 to \$50. It will significantly harm downtown businesses and workers.

Vote, "NO!"

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Savita Okhuysen (Sokhuysen17@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:40:30

address: 113 rockingham ave

comments: It's appalling to see the town not only increasing parking rates, expanding the hours of meters being paid but now also increase in ticket fines to the already hurting workforce in downtown Portsmouth. The town is greedy and hurting the little people and their businesses that used to make Portsmouth so charming. As if all the new hotel and development haven't already made Portsmouth unaffordable, it seems the council wants to expedite that even more. Pretty soon you are going to price everyone out of Portsmouth except the wealthy and you don't see the young and thriving Portsmouth it used to be.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Kim Davies (kncdavies@live.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:45:18

address: Portsmouth Workforce

comments: Previous and hopefully future resident, as well as still part of the workforce here. Raising the parking violation from \$15 to \$50 is not only ridiculous it is shameful. It is obvious how out of touch this council is with the working poor that make up this city. My meeting runs late or my shift coverage doesn't arrive on time so now I have to pay with close to 4 hours of my paycheck for a parking violation? This is not only out of touch to consider, it's also states that whomever proposed this is a very privileged individual who doesn't understand that \$50 is sometimes the choice of whether a family eats that week or not. If this passes, consider the loss of MANY workers and visitors that will ultimately seek out a different, more workforce/visitor friendly town to spend their money and time in. \$35 many not be a lot to you but to some that is the difference between gas in their vehicle for the week so they can even get to work or not. Ludicrous to even consider this.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Louis M. Lange (lou.lange@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:45:34

address: 5 Freedom Circle, Apt. 13

comments: Increasing the costs of parking tickets more by more than 3 times will do NOTHING except drive those work in the city to find offices outside the city AND it will MOST DEFINITELY drive tourists and shoppers away from the city shops.

You shuld be encouraging free or reduced parking fees as need be to keep residents and tourists shopping in Portsmouth.

I urge you to postpone or deny this anti-consumer meature.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ethan Pratt (ethanthepratt@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:49:48

address: 94 Richards Ave, Apt 1

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor and City Councilors:

I recognize the financial challenges and difficult decisions that the pandemic has brought upon the City of Portsmouth, but suddenly increasing the fine for an expired parking meter by 233% is an aggressive and unreasonable solution. It would disproportionately impact downtown workers in the service and retail industries who are already bearing the brunt of the economic downturn.

Allowing a meter to expire is not by any reasonable interpretation a more serious violation than parking within an intersection, parking in a crosswalk or blocking a fire hydrant, all of which are public safety hazards and carry only a twenty-five-dollar fine. A violation should not carry a higher penalty simply because it is more common, even if that penalty will help reduce a budget shortfall.

I respectfully ask that the City Council consider at least a more moderate increase to the expired-meter fine.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Michael Power (michaelbpower@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:50:55

address: 105 Saratoga Way Portsmouth

comments: With all respect, please do not triple those parking fees.
Please limit restaurant liability to \$1 million and let those vital businesses again open outside dining.
Thank you for your consideration.
Michael Power

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Gary Haugh (gary.haugh1@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:52:06

address: 736b middle street Portsmouth Nh

comments: Good afternoon,

As someone who has worked in the service industry their entire time in Portsmouth (ten years now) parking is difficult enough to find at the best of times and oftentimes staff will have to pull into paid metered spots instead of going to either garage due to any number of reasons.

This purposed increase for an expired meter from \$15 to \$50 is immoral and cruel to anyone living or visiting the city. It would be both those in normal times but in the middle of a pandemic it's absolutely absurd and nonsensical. If the wish of this council is to drive younger people, older people and especially disabled people away from the town well you are doing exactly what you were elected to do. If not, then please rethink this.

Regards

Gary

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by James Eiffe (j_eiffe@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 11:59:53

address: 40 Sunset Rd

comments: I assume this is "fake news" but sending this in case it is not. Raising the fine for an expired meter from \$15 to \$50 is ludicrous. Even raising it \$5 is a 33% increase. The Consumer Price Index rose 1.4% in 2020. Thus to keep up with inflation the new rate should be no higher than \$15.21. Enough is enough.
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Lisa Plante (Imp711@hotmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:01:30

address: 17 Laurel Court

comments: That increased fee schedule is completely ridiculous. Our city businesses are struggling and your meter people ticket within 5 minutes of expiration. Find your revenue elsewhere please. Fifteen dollars for an expired meter is reasonable, \$50 is insane. Please stay sane.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mark Neubauer (Neubyfly@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:06:44

address: 101 marne avenue

comments: The proposed increase of parking ticket amounts is ludicrous. \$50 is way too high and huge jump from the current rates. Also, why would parking in a fire lane be a smaller fine than an expired meter?

Please do not follow the new fine structure recommendations.

Thank you

Mark

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mike Millikan (michael.millikan@icloud.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:09:36

address: 284 New Castle Ave, Portsmouth, NH

comments: I strongly suggest that the City Council reject the significant increase in parking fines that are being recommended. If Portsmouth will indelibly damage its well earned reputation for being visitor friendly. It will be detrimental to businesses and employees. I recently looked at visiting Tybee Island, GA for vacation. However when I read reviews from various sources there was a consistent theme from visitors vowing to not return; the high cost of parking and excessive fines. Don't let that happen to Portsmouth, please.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Amber Stitt (Amberleigh329@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:29:24

address: 24 oak street Dover,NH

comments: I am writing this in regard to the upcoming discussion about raising the parking ticket amount from \$15 to \$50, in addition to the discussion about turning the municipal lot by Citizens Bank and pay lot. First, raising the parking ticket amount by more than triple is egregious. Not everyone parking in Portsmouth is wealthy enough to pay one or more tickets at the steep cost of \$50. That cost would deter me even as a tourist.

Second, in regards to turning the municipal lot into a pay-to-park lot. Not everyone can afford to park for work everyday, and if we can't afford to pay for parking for work, people will be forced to look for jobs out of the city of Portsmouth. I do not see how this would help the economy, but more so how it would negatively impact it.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Katia Lillis (lilliskatia@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:30:14

address: 610 State Street, Portsmouth NH

comments: I strongly oppose increasing the fine for expired parking tickets from \$15 to \$50

You are making it impossible for people on a small income to live in this town. This is outrageous. I don't understand what drives the city council to make suggestions such as this one.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Andr a Dupont (andrea@andreadupont.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:32:52

address: 89 Blue Heron Drive Portsmouth H

comments: Ithe increase is totally unreasonable

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by lynn sullivan (lbecksul@aol.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:42:49

address: 80 haley rd

comments: Please do not raise fees for parking!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ashley Lindsey (a.lauren1992@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:45:22

address: 242 State st

comments: Council, I am writing this in concern to parking ticket increase. I am the wife of a sailor who currently works at the shipyard. We were given 6 weeks notice that my husband was being called to active duty (he is a reservist) and being moved to Portsmouth shipyard from OK. We had one week to choose where we would be living with our toddler. It has been a financial strain on our family as pay checks have been behind. Our welcoming to the city has been tickets (once we had paid and the worker put in our license plate wrong, we have our receipt for proof). Another time, we were in the lot for about 65 hours. The sign says 72 hours. And then another time, after my husband was forced to quarantine for 2 weeks and couldn't get to his truck. The other times were simply mistakes as it's very hard to remember if we are at the meter because we couldn't find a spot in the lot that day. We understand that tickets are necessary. If ticket prices increase though it could put an even more financial strain on my husband as well as others. Mistakes happen, and a \$50 mistake for being a few min late (that's all we've ever been) could cost us so much more than you know. Please consider not passing this. There has to be another way. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Carrie Wood (Carriecarleton74@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:48:48

address: 317A High St. Somersworth, NH. 03878

comments:

Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors, I work in downtown Portsmouth and going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable.

This would put a strain on us who work and keep Portsmouth running.

Please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion â€ move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020)

And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Phoebe Luneau (phoebe.luneau@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:50:26

address: 158 cable rd. Rye

comments: I am beyond proud to work at an independent retail business in downtown Portsmouth. It certainly is, on occasion, physically impossible to find a legal parking space for the duration of my shift. I am a UNH undergrad student putting myself through school and covering roughly 80% of my own living expenses. A threefold plus increase of Portsmouth parking tickets would be detrimental to my livelihood and wellbeing.
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Joy Curth (joy.curth@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 12:50:50

address: Joy.curth@gmail.com

comments: Folks a few things on the City Council agenda tonight that would be worth writing in about. Please consider sending this in, your voice will make a difference.

Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors,

Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable.

Please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion " move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020)

And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Liz (lizleighshea@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:02:20

address: 15 junction road

comments: As someone who has worked downtown, and with a husband who still does, I find this increase to be a big slap for hard working middle class families. I worked at the gallery on market street, when I started in 2014, parking was only 75 cents. Since then there has been large increases. My husband had gotten a parking ticket in April of last year. He works for some of the many hotels in downtown. He was unloading cinder blocks during the pandemic, that would later become part of the outdoor dinning. A \$50 ticket to unload cinderblocks would have been devastating. Please keep in mind the workers who help make this city what it is and what it will become. If affordable housing in Portsmouth is obsolete, at least help with this.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Tamrah Rouleau (tzinn7@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:05:34

address: 159 Madison St

comments: Increasing parking tickets that substantially in a city that thrives on community and supporting our own itâ€™s insured. What happened to supporting locals and encouraging tourists to keep our city thriving?!?!

I wholeheartedly disapprove this.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Michael MacDonald (mikem@elite24x7.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:08:39

address: 86 Farm Lane

comments: It seems unreasonable to charge 50.00 for an expired meter and 15-25 for a safety related offense

Ex:

Parking too close to intersection

Parking in handicapped spot

Etc

Please review and use common sense for safety issues not just revenue

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Deborah Gayner (debgayner@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:14:03

address: 39 Holmes Ct

comments: I find the Proposed increases in parking fines to be completely unreasonable. Those of us who support the small businesses of downtown, will be impacted as well as those businesses that are struggling as it is. I think it's your job to support them not hurt them. How is it that Portland, Maine is able to give their merchants the support of free on street parking and we can't?

Everyone at some point inadvertently has a meter expire. It will be a very sour taste for future visits if the penalty is \$50.00.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jennifer Towle (jenrytowle@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:23:48

address: 88 Old Post Rd

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, City Councilors, & Staff that Keeps Portsmouth Incredible:

I am writing to you with earnest concerns of the proposed parking ticket increase, as well as measures to reopen outdoor dining in the city.

Though I live just across the bridge in Kittery, Portsmouth is my home for both the performing arts and many restaurants and shops I choose to patron frequently. As a performer with varying downtown spaces, finding reliable and affordable parking can already be a grim task. It is common practice for performers (and admins) to have to run to feed the meter or find other available parking during intermission (our "break time" between acts). It is a struggle I that know our sister industry (restaurant & hospitality) has even more frequently.

Asking those already stretched thin in the service industry to compile the stress of parking (and losing what is most likely their only break in a shift) with the threat of a \$50 fine if they can't get to their car in time for reasons beyond their control... I fear that kind of rate hike could be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back. We run the risk of losing more folk dedicated to providing world class service to our residents and visitors.

Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable. I urge you to reconsider this initiative.

I would also ask you to look favorably on waiving fees for outdoor seating, and accepting the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants this year. The service industry has dodged, juked, weaved, and hail mary-ed their way through this past year, all while trying to keep on their staff and provide service to clients and support other city business. If the least we can do for them is waive the fees as they were last year, and reduce liability to give them a chance to exhale and realize that there is hope, and their city has their back would be in the spirit of this city.

Thank you for your time, and for listening to the voices of the people who strive to make this city a destination where people want to visit and residents are proud of. Take care, and be well.

Most Sincerely,
Jennifer "Jenry" Towle
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Stephen Alie (alieports@myfairpoint.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:39:45

address: 1 Market Street, Portsmouth

comments: Hello, Councilors.

I have just learned that the proposed increase in parking fines rates will be brought up tonight.

Given the economic importance that the CBD has on the city's tax base, and given the negative impact that the proposed increase will have on downtown patronage I am strongly opposed to the proposed increase.

It is in our city's interests to promote downtown patronage.

Boosting the cover charge required of would-be patrons can only harm that tax base.

Unfortunately, the effort to discourage out-of-town scofflaws will more often punish local patrons for accidental overstays.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by ARLENE CODY (agn Cody@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:42:05

address: 138 HILLTOP PL, New London

comments: Please reconsider the delay of the Islington St improvements. As a patient of Ancient Traditions at 249 Islington the sidewalk outside this office is a danger and needs to be dealt with sooner rather than later.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Gillian R (g.roun22@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:53:14

address: 11 Trestle rd Rochester, NH

comments: To the City of Portsmouth Council members,

I'm writing to urge you not to raise parking ticket prices from \$15 to \$50. For one, that is an astronomical price increase, and is rather absurd.

More importantly, the town and its many small businesses have been struggling for the past year, hanging on by the skin of their teeth while a pandemic raged on, and caused great losses, and for some- permanent closures. It would be detrimental not only for their employees, but to their customers and guests. The possibility of a \$50 dollar ticket for being a few minutes late back to your car, or even an hour late, will not make people more punctual, but will in fact keep them from coming and parking in downtown to shop. It will force employees to park further and further outside of town, taking up valuable space in surrounding neighborhoods, or to leave and find new work all together.

The town has made very steady and hefty increases to parking over the last few years, not only raising the price to park per hour, but also the length of time it charges to park. While I know that economically it is an important stream of revenue for the city, at what cost? Is it worth losing the last of what makes Portsmouth a tourist draw? All the small shops and independent restaurants? The strain has already been put on business owners and employees across town due to parking shortages and charge increases.

Please don't make it worse.

Sincerely,
Gillian Roun
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jon L (Floes_legs@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:54:44

address: Dodge Ave

comments: I strongly oppose the proposed increase of parking tickets from \$15 to \$50. That increase is preposterous and should be rejected quickly.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Robin Vogt (robin.w.vogt@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 13:59:44

address: 10 Blue Heron Drive

comments: Afternoon Councilors,

After reviewing the latest proposed increases to parking tickets, charges and fee's, I am gravely disappointed in these actions. I am speaking not only as a community activist, but as a resident and supporter of our local businesses. There were multiple opportunities posed by select City Councilors to extend outdoor seating for our restaurants and local coffee shops, however, that was all pushed aside. Making up for lost funds due to the pandemic and inaction on such a critical items, through increased fee's that the people of Portsmouth and visitors will have to pay is unwise. In all honesty, it shows how disconnected some of our City Council is with the people of our beloved port city. When talking with residents of Ward 1 and countless other parts of town, this only adds to the financial burden so many face at this time. To hold the people responsible with \$5, \$10, and even \$15 increases in fee's because select the few on our council vote together in personal

interests and not based on what the people of Portsmouth want to see from their town? That is outright wrong, and I am asking for this council to please rethink these increases for the sake of our community. For the sake of our small businesses and those who rely upon their paycheck to make ends meet during this time. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Payten Moody (paytenmoody@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 14:24:31

address: 1001 Islington St

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors, Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable.

Please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion " move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020) And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Kathleen Pirie (Kathyi7@comcast.net) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 14:32:18

address: 341 thaxter rd

comments: Pls do not increase parking tickets to \$50! I can't believe this is even on the table!!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Nora DiCesare (Ndicesare21@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 14:51:14

address: 981 State street

comments: Hello, as you may realize I work and live in town. Low wage workers are having a war waged on them by the city councilors. It is bad enough to have to deal with the greedy Portsmouth parking rules (can we talk about the app that a parking employee admitted did not communicate with their hand held system and was giving people tickets that had paid using the app? Absolutely criminal). It is absolutely unfair the way you are pushing people out of Portsmouth. I know all of your salaries are much more than any restaurant or retail worker worker in town, and I'm sure you all get a city car that we pay for. Please do not raise the parking ticket rate. It is pushing workers out of where they live and work.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Lisa Muccini (seastarsandsun@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 14:54:54

address: 18A Glendale Road, Rye

comments: Although I do not work downtown now, I used to. First of all, I know how much employees rely on the free parking lot. You can barely live on the wages you make as a retail employee. At times, many of us would be forced to park at a metered space when the lot was full or in bad weather. It would be a day of anxiety, running out to feed the meter and hoping you wouldn't be ticketed anyway. \$50.00 is more than a day's pay for some! Then there is the other issue. If people are enjoying our downtown, happen to lose track

of time, and get a \$50. ticket... do you think they will feel comfortable coming back very often? Surely there must be a better way to generate income for Portsmouth! Everyone is struggling financially due to Covid-19. What a slap in the face this would be!! Shameful.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Persephone Bennett (sephiejean@yahoo.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:02:04

address: 236 Union St

comments: Raising ticket prices is a greed fueled maneuver that only serves to make Portsmouth harder to be in for working people, especially young working people. If all of you old crusty dinosaurs want to die surrounded by only your own kind, keep it up I guess.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Charlie Sirmaian (charliesirmaian@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:15:38

address: 1133 Woodbury Avenue, Portsmouth NH

comments: I am writing to urge you not to hike up the price of parking ticket fines. The prices are outrageous enough as is - and this fine increase is stark (and for what?). Most meters are not even labeled properly for those who use the prepaid parking gadgets! It is a guessing game that leaves the citizens at fault when the city should CLEARLY label EACH parking meter downtown. I highly urge you to make sure EVERY meter is properly labeled before you start hiking up the price of fines.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Isabella Mutch (IsabellaMutch@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:16:37

address: 107 Market St. Apt. 2 Portsmouth, NH

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors,

Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable.

Please pass this item:

E. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. *Waiver of Fees for Restaurant Outdoor Seating (Sample motion “ move to give the City Manager authority to relieve restaurants of fees for outdoor seating due to COVID-19 as was done in 2020)

And accept the recommendation of the legal department to reduce liability from \$3 million to \$1 million for our restaurants.

Also if the town is still considering charging for Parrot Lot parking, please consider those of us who live downtown and cannot afford the very few and extremely expensive alternatives.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jacob Lehoux (jalehoux@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:38:36

address: 93 High Street, Unit 2

comments: Dear Honorable Mayor, Assistant Mayor, and City Councilors,

Going from \$15 for parking tickets to \$50 is unreasonable. Imagine getting groceries and when I park to bring them into my apartment I get 50 dollars fine. This is another example of class warfare against the downtown residents without parking who are typically younger, and make less than the people living in the million dollar condos with provided underground parking.

Please don't pass this item and find another way to earn revenue. Parking is already challenging and expensive enough we need a better solution for downtown residents without parking!!!

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Joel Conley (joel4376@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:39:08

address: 339 Hanover street

comments: I do not support the idea of fifty dollar parking tickets. This is unbelievably short-sighted planning considering the fact that downtown businesses are slowly dying during the pandemic.

This is Portsmouth, not Boston. Locals and tourists will be disgusted by this kind of greed from the city. This town will have no future as a hip, exciting place to visit. Maybe your council should take a hard look at the success Kittery has seen in the last few years and learn a thing or two from them. I have seen young people and service workers leaving this city in droves over the last decade because of this kind of poor planning. Portsmouth should be much more inclusive. It seems to be quickly becoming a retirement community for the wealthy.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Anne H (segdoh.enna@hotmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:39:33

address: 339 Hanover st

comments: I have recently heard that there is a proposal to raise the parking ticket fine from \$15 to \$50, and I am writing to express my strong disapproval of this measure. There is a saying that "punishable by fine really means legal for the rich." Portsmouth needs the thousands of hourly workers who run our cafes and shops and this will have a direct impact on them, in what is already an nearly impossible time. The burden of this increase will also have a detrimental effect on those of us who live in apartments without deeded parking (also generally lower income residents), and additionally will dissuade more tourists from coming to our downtown district. Portsmouth needs to realize that if it has a future, we MUST support the members of the community who aren't just here buying a luxury condo to retire to, but are working to keep our shops open and diners happy. To remain a thriving city, we cannot just cater to the rich. While for many reading this, a \$50 fine would be annoying but forgettable, for others, it could be catastrophic. Find other ways to boost our budget if that's what is needed, or implement a sliding scale fine based on income, like Sweden, France, Germany, or many other countries. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Dijana Grubescic (dijanagrubescic@gmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:54:38

address: 1145 Sagamore Ave. Portsmouth NH 03801

comments: Dear Council members,
Please do not increase parking ticket prices for downtown. As a worker that frequents downtown on a daily basis, this would be incredibly detrimental to my daily life and finances. Also, if you increase the prices it would make it more difficult for low income individuals to enjoy the downtown area on a regular basis.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jacqueline Martell (fadeintothesea@hotmail.com) on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 15:59:59

address: 264 South Street, Portsmouth

comments: As a long-standing citizen of Portsmouth, I am appalled to hear about the desire to increase parking citations in the city and do not believe that a large increase in the fee will illicit the change that the city is attempting to promote. From Parking Director Ben Fletcher's comments (re: Seacoast Online article from March, 2020) he stated that the changes in the citation fee structure were not of a revenue nature, but as an attempt to illicit behavioral changes in drivers, particularly in the interest of parking space turnover.

One of the largest group of offenders according to Mr. Fletcher are the out-of-town (and out-of-state) guests who upon finding a parking citation on their car are less inclined to move their vehicle and instead will leave it for the remainder of the day. How exactly does increasing the parking citation fee stop or reverse that behavior? I would be even *more* inclined to leave my car in the same spot all day if I had already been cited a \$40 dollar fee, for example. Also, I would not want to go back to a small city again if the last time I was there I got a \$40 ticket.

A higher citation fee is only a deterrent to guests who know the consequences BEFORE they park. No one wants a \$40 or \$50 ticket, but that information has to be presented clearly and also assimilated by guests as a potential consequence for not paying the meter, or not moving their vehicle in time. I've lived in and parked in Portsmouth at metered spaces relatively every day for over 20 years and I couldn't tell you if the parking citation fee is displayed or presented on a single meter in town. So how exactly does an increased fee deter an out-of-towner from leaving their car parked in a space beyond the time limit...?

While I understand that some of our peer cities (Dover, Durham) have a \$20 expired meter fee, the city of Manchester only has a \$10 fine. Also the aforementioned cities either have free weekend parking or at the very least free parking on Sundays. Sure, Dover is \$5 more per citation, but they aren't collecting 7 days a week. I can't tell you how many times I've called to an out-of-towner on the weekend as they walk away from their recently parked car, "hey, Portsmouth charges on Sundays!" They respond normally in disbelief that Sundays are not free, and then gratitude that I saved them from a potential ticket. A lot of residents and businesses are still upset about *that* change even though it was years ago.

I know parking spaces are a premium in our city, but even in the middle of the summer when we are bursting with tourists, I can always find a space to park. I've never seen the Hanover, Portwalk, and Foundry garages all entirely full. Is it inconvenient to drive around the square a few times looking for a space....? Maybe, but folks are taking side streets and detours, discovering restaurants and businesses they may have otherwise missed if they got a prime spot right on Congress St. Where is the harm in that? Do we honestly believe tourists come to our city and if they can't find a spot immediately upon getting downtown that they just decide to drive off and go to another place? I don't think so.

To even consider raising the fee in a year where we are suffering the consequences of a global pandemic, when people have lost their jobs and are trying to make ends meet, where small and local businesses are struggling to stay open and attract customers... it's not only irresponsibly tone-deaf but it also feels deeply cynical.

So, what is the solution? How about some positive reinforcement? There could be signage around town which address the limited parking and preemptively thanks people for moving their car every three hours. You'd be surprised the type of behavioral changes which can occur when giving people grace, encouraging manners and good behavior, and allowing them to act in the best interests of everyone.

Also instead of punishing someone for mistakenly thinking Sundays are free, or spending an extra few minutes at a shop or a restaurant and letting their meter expire... maybe the city should consider compound citations for cars parked beyond the time limit for extensive amounts of time. For example, if your meter expired in a '3-hr limit' space, you get a citation for each additional 3-hr window your car remains. Signage for those spots with limited hours can be updated to reflect the fee schedule and structure. That type of solution does not outwardly punish someone who lost track of time by a few minutes, but it does discourage someone from leaving their car in space for 9 consecutive hours.

I think we can be smarter about this issue. Simply raising a citation fee will not address the behavioral change the city would like to illicit. It also wreaks of greed, shortsightedness, and a lack of imagination on problem-solving. I ask you to think of our city and the hardships we have all endured this year - upping the fee of a parking ticket is costly in so many intangible ways and the price will be paid directly by the people in this town you so wish to support: our businesses and residents.

includeInRecords: on