

# **CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS**

## **May 17, 2021**

**Council Meeting**

**ADDENDUM**

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

**May 13, 2021** (after 9:00 a.m.) – **May 17, 2021** (before 4:30 p.m.)

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

**From:** [James A Hewitt 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:** City Savings Account Balance  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 11:25:45 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
James A Hewitt (samjakemax@aol.com) on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 22:25:43

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address: 726 Middle Road

comments: Dear Mayor Becksted and City Councilors:

From page 109 of 111 in the May 17 City Council packet, I understand there is \$ 124 million dollars of the People's money in various savings accounts that you control.

What is up with that ????

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.1.195

**From:** [Colleen Wolfe 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:** I support voting Yes on current McIntyre Design  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:17:54 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Colleen Wolfe (colleen.mckenzie.wolfe@gmail.com) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 13:17:52

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address: 30 Cate St Unit 8

comments: Thank you to the McIntyre subcommittee for their work to get the City to this point.

I participated in the Portsmouth Listens groups and also participated in the surveys. I gave the highest scores to the Market/Garden concept, which ended up being the overall preferred design. I think the Market/Garden concept activates the proposed public space in the most effective way.

The majority of this Council ran on the platform to "Revisit McIntyre". I think that the Council has successfully done that, and I applaud the considered process that the subcommittee, Portsmouth Listens, and the Principle Group designed and carried out. It was comprehensive, engaging, and showed that Portsmouth values having active public spaces in the downtown. I hope that the Council will follow the direction that resulted from this process by voting Yes to accept the Market/Garden concept and allow the subcommittee to enter into negotiations with Redgate Kane.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 75.68.183.208

**From:** [Jon Dickinson 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:** Immediately End the Mask Mandate  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 11:24:34 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jon Dickinson (jon3425@gmail.com) on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 10:24:31

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address: 220 Walker Bungalow Rd

comments: Council Members and Mr Mayor,

In light of the CDC statement that fully vaccinated people don't need to wear a mask, the current mandate should be ended immediately.

Our state vaccinate rate is over 70%. I venture to say it's even higher in Portsmouth.

Those who have taken it upon themselves to do the right thing and be vaccinated should not be burdened by those who have selfishly decided not to be vaccinated.

People are already flouting the law as the CDC guidelines are debunked (EG. Wearing masks outside does nothing).

Removing the mandate will tell the community that the Council is paying attention to the science and respecting those who have done right for the community.

Thank you,

Jon Dickinson

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.232.208.39

**From:** [Kathie Lynch 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:** Indigenous People Day  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 9:34:21 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Kathie Lynch (kathielynch@hotmail.com) on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 08:34:19

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address: 3 Boyan Place

comments: Dear Councilors,

I support the action of the PHS "We Speak" students in changing Columbus Day to reflect the Indigenous People who lived on and had possession of Portsmouth long before colonization resulted in their relocation and land loss. It is uplifting to see our youngest citizens take action for causes in which they believe!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.222.71

**From:** [Priscilla French 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:** Indigenous Peoples Day  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:30:13 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Priscilla French (Frenchfam5@comcast.net) on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 16:30:11

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address: 45 Driftwood Lane

comments: I hope I can count on all Council members to permanently change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. Portsmouth needs to follow suit alongside other NH cities, not to mention the states of Maine and Vermont.  
Thank you!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.147.240.186

**From:** [charlie griffin 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:** Indigenous People's Day  
**Date:** Saturday, May 15, 2021 3:34:04 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
charlie griffin (charlesgriffinesq@gmail.com) on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 14:34:02  
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address: 210 Hillside Drive ,Portsmouth

comments: Because I am uncertain as to whether I will be able to connect via Zoom on Monday night,I am e-mailing my thoughts on the proposal to change the observance of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day.

When this proposal first came before the Council last fall ,among the e-mails submitted was a three page single typed one from Frank Ferraro dated October 3,2020 in which he discussed the fact versus the fiction surrounding Columbus.I urge you to. revisit that document as you weigh your decision in this matter.

In addition, an article I recently came across stressed that it is possible to celebrate Columbus Day in the manner of a proud and decent society -one that can recognize it's faults while proudly asserting its virtues. The article went on to state that tour guides at Monticello do not ignore Jefferson's slave owning and his treatment of his mistress ,Sally Hemingway, as being part of his heritage while at the same time acknowledging his love of freedom and his quest for knowledge as also being part of his story,

An op-ed in the Philadelphia Inquirer last October stressed Columbus accomplishments for human civilization such as introducing the concept of reaching east by going west and making known to Europe the existence of the North and South American continents and laying the groundwork for future explorers.

The op-ed also stressed the cultural significance of Columbus Day to Italian Americans ( in the interest of full disclosure my heritage is entirely Irish) but noted that the celebration of Columbus dates to 1892 when President Harrison established it after the lynching of 11 Italian immigrants in 1891 and states that the New World which Columbus arrived in was already marked by violence.

Finally, a Washington Examiner article from October 9,2017, stated that three quarters of Americans believe that that Columbus and other historical figures should be judged by the standards of conduct during the time in which they lived rather than by the standards of today.

The article notes that extremists have been attacking Columbus since the mid 19th century when Frederick Engels condemned him for being a capitalist and the Ku Klux Klan for his Catholic faith .

The article quotes Presidents who have lauded Columbus from Reagan who declared him a brilliant navigator , a fearless man of action and a visionary to Obama who praised him for his journey that changed the trajectory of our world and recognized the spirit that his legacy inspired.

Columbus was by no means perfect , but none of us is and as Jesus said 'let he who is without sin, cast the first stone."

Rather than casting stones at one another over this issue ,I believe the better solution as has been suggested by others is to retain Columbus Day ,but to add Indigenous People's Day the Friday before.

One last thought. It is my understanding that this issue has come before the Council largely through the efforts of a student group at Portsmouth High School, While I agree with Assistant Mayor Splaine's recent op-ed that we want to encourage young people to get involved in local government as these students have done and as they did last fall when the Council passed the plastic bags ordinance,I noted at the time that several of the students lived in Rye and Greenland. I would suspect that the same is true of the current group of students who want the Council to substitute Indigenous People's Day for Columbus Day. If I am correct, I would urge the Council to table this matter pending these same students presenting their proposal to the Selectpersons in Rye, Greenland Newington and New Castle ,as the case may be ,and obtaining a commitment from

each of their Boards of to make the same change.

As always I thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.168.72.165



**From:** [Anne Romney 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:** Indigenous Peoples Day  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 3:39:03 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Anne Romney (anneromney@gmail.com) on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 14:39:00

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address: 66 State Street, 303

comments: Hello Councilors,

I wanted to express my support for the adoption of the change from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples day. I think this is an action action with Portsmouth's commitment to being a Racial Justice Municipality.

Thank you for giving serious consideration to this effort.

Anne

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.233.86.153

**From:** [Rebecca Blake 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:** Indigenous People's Day  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:23:50 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Rebecca Blake (rblake.nh@gmail.com) on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 16:23:48

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address: 12 Porter Street

comments: Dear Councilors,

I am writing in support of changing the name of "Columbus Day" to "Indigenous People's Day." Christopher Columbus is a person in history who is celebrated due to out-dated and racist ideas. It is more in keeping with the spirit of this city to instead recognize the indigenous people who originally inhabited this land, and acknowledge their contributions and history.

Thank you,  
Rebecca Blake

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.2.187

**From:** [Sarah Keller 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:** Indigenous Peoples Day  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 7:58:57 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sarah Keller (Sarahbek96@gmail.com) on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 18:58:55

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address: 181 Elwyn Avenue

comments: Please approve the name change of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in Portsmouth. It is an important step in our effort to show our respect and acknowledge the great harm done to Native Americans in our country.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.235.15.200

**From:** [Andrew Houldsworth 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:** Indigenous People's Day  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 11:24:47 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Andrew Houldsworth ([galileodino@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:galileodino@cityofportsmouth.com)) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 10:24:45

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address: 20 Elliot Park Dover, NH

comments: I wanted to voice my support for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. As a municipality dedicated to racial justice, we cannot ignore the facts surrounding the trauma done by Christopher Columbus in other parts of the world, nor the fact that indigenous people have been ignored, hurt, and killed by majority American indifference and prejudice. It is time to join Concord, Durham, Hopkinton, Keene, Dover, and Nashua (among others) and change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. As a city library worker, I can't tell you how proud I already am to work for this city, and this change would inspire so much more pride across departments. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 69.168.4.66

**From:** [Jason Walls 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 ending  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 2:35:57 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Jason Walls (jason.sedley.walls@gmail.com) on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 13:35:54

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address: 1113 Maplewood Ave

comments: Dear Council,

The CDC recently updated their guidelines to state that fully vaccinated persons need not wear masks indoors or outdoors. As the NH population has already reached herd immunity levels of vaccination (~70%) and continues ever day, and the state of NH has ended its state of emergency mandates, I encourage you to propose an end to the local mask mandate, and to instruct the health department to recind its requirements on businesses and restaurants.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/05/13/cdc-says-fully-vaccinated-people-dont-need-to-wear-face-masks-indoors-or-outdoors-in-most-settings.html>

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.101.87

**From:** [Martin Ryan 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:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 10:45:11 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Martin Ryan (mlr10000@yahoo.com) on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 09:45:08  
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address: 221 WOODBURY AVE

comments: City Council-

It is past time to repeal the mask ordinance . The CDC has finally declared that Covid 19 transmission outdoors is virtually impossible. We basically have been lied to by our federal agencies who have used their position to exaggerate the dangers of not wearing a mask. Wearing masks and promoting irrational fear has done enough damage. Let's repair the damage and show leadership when it comes to promoting truth.

Thank you,  
Martin Ryan

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.159.246.74

**From:** [Stephen and Karin Barndollar 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:** McIntyre Building  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 8:31:12 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Stephen and Karin Barndollar (karin.bdollars@gmail.com) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 07:31:03

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address: 120 Ridges Ct

comments: Dear members of the City Council,

As participants in both public input sessions over the last several years, we are writing today to urge you to support the plan proposed by the Principle Group. Whereas the proposal put forward by Redgate/Kane fell far short of the wishes expressed by residents during the first round of conversation with the community, we are pleased with the design presented by the Principle Group. The McIntyre subcommittee, the Principle group, and yes, Portsmouth residents, have spent a great deal of time on the project, and it is now time to move forward.

It was quite disappointing to hear City Counselors bemoan the lack of parking spaces, It should be our goal as an eco-municipality, and in light of what we know about the carbon footprint of cars, to reduce the number of vehicles in the downtown area and come up with more innovative ways of transporting people. We also feel that Penhallow Street can be more pedestrian-friendly while still allowing access to vehicles. This plan also includes the return of the post office to the city center, which tops the wish list of residents.

It will never be possible to please everybody, but the current design proposal is creative and thoughtful and has many exciting aspects, but above all, it reflects the input from the community. It may quite possibly also turn out to be a starting point in bringing the Redgate/Kane group back to the table.

Sincerely,

Steve and Karin Barndollar  
120 Ridges Ct  
Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.223.91

**From:** [Peter Somssich 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:** McIntyre Project  
**Date:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:30:26 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Peter Somssich (peter.somssich@gmail.com) on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 18:30:24

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address: 34 Swett Ave.

comments: Dear Councilors,

Please do not pass the current development proposal as is.  
This project needs more open/green space, and this can be done even including the Market Shed, if the footprint of the other structures is reduced. Modifications should be made.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.71.240.138



**From:** [Rich Dipentima 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:** McIntyre Project  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 9:22:48 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Rich Dipentima (rdipentima@gmail.com) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 08:22:46

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address: 16 Dunlin Way

comments: Dear Council Members:

I urge you to support an approve the most recent McIntyre design selected by 22 Portsmouth Listen groups. This design is the result of the community input that asked for. Please accept what we have decided and do the right thing. it is long past time to move on with this project.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.168.72.174

**From:** [Heath Bingham 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:** McIntyre redevelopment  
**Date:** Saturday, May 15, 2021 7:28:42 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Heath Bingham (heathmail1@gmail.com) on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 18:28:39

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address: 445 ocean rd #10

comments: 5/15/21

Thank you Councilors for your abundant time and effort on this project. I am optimistic that all will turn out for the best.

The initial Redgate- Kane proposal and review by the city that initially appeared to be supported, was flawed since it was not challenged until the last moment. As well meaning as the Revisit Portsmouth position was it resulted in the worst outcome in terms of the mindset of people involved and has added to further confusion.

I believe the minimum development/maximum park position will always be the bottom line objective by some residents. The Council did exactly the right thing by starting over and bringing on the Principal Group as a facilitator. As a result of the Portsmouth Listens groups and guidance by the Principal Group it was recognized by many of the participants that we have an opportunity to create a unique design for the city. I see the shed idea as an innovative solution and am in favor of other aspects of the plan as well. Covered space is attractive and allows for almost year round utilization.

Other observations:

I believe the Principal Group is a neutral observer and has given their best guidance to offer professional city planning options for the residents. Comments to the contrary are not accurate or helpful.

I would like to see the shed building not used exclusively as a mall for a food court and shopping. It should be for the residents. Keep the floor open for art and craft shows, traveling displays, music, and small productions on a temporary stage, etc. Display historic items such as the Kearsage fire pumper of the 1850's. Perhaps flood the area for winter skating, or use temporary wood flooring for roller-skating. We need a study of possible uses before designing the structure. Upper floors seem to make sense.

People rejected "fake historic". Buildings can be contemporary or more modern. The residents and tourists walking the town are young and looking for experiences. We have parks and woods nearby. Creating more large green areas are nothing to write home about. We should build something special for people to enjoy and remember. A creative architectural firm could certainly add to this plan.

HB  
445 Ocean Road  
Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.167.217.213

**From:** [Martha Fuller Clark 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:** McIntyre vote  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:09:05 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Martha Fuller Clark (Martha@mfclark4nh.com) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 13:09:03  
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address: 152 Middle Street

comments: The perfect should not be the enemy of the good”.

This coming Monday, May 17th, the City Council is scheduled to vote on whether or not to accept the draft proposal for the development of the McIntyre site. The proposal has been prepared by the Principle Group and is based on thousands of hours of consulting with more than 250 Portsmouth Listens participants. The design process, guided throughout by the McIntyre subcommittee in conjunction with the Principle Group, was open to everyone, transparent and professional. Input from the community was sought at every phase in order to help the Principle Group finalize the proposal which will be before the Council Monday night. It is important to recognize that if this proposal is approved, we are only at the beginning of the design process and many of the elements will be in need of further definition and specificity. But, for that to happen, we must have a proposal to negotiate with Redgate Kane, the National Park Service and the Government Services Administration. This is the!  
only way the City can gain possession of both the McIntyre building and the rest of the 2 1/4 acre site.

Clearly acquiring the building and the site is undoubtedly one of the most significant investment the City can make in the economic future of our historic downtown which is why the members of the City Council need to hear from you before Monday night. You need to call or email Council members to let them know where you stand and how you would like them to vote. This is your last opportunity to weigh in with your support or lack of support. This is our city and it is our voices that will set the future direction of our historic downtown.

And while current design proposal is not to everyone’s liking, I believe there is much about this proposal to like, especially when compared to the development plan put forth by Redgate Kane. The square footage (without building out over the existing post office annex) is less than half (45.6 percent) of that proposed by Redgate Kane (39,738 GFA vs. 87,236 GFA ). And, if the proposed building over the post office annex were to be included, the overall square footage would still be reduced by at least 25% percent (65,945 GSF vs 87,236 GSF), even more if the new building were only two or three stories high. The proposed building heights for the other buildings on the site are two and a half to three stories high, as opposed to the two five and six story buildings proposed by Redgate Kane, both located behind the McIntyre building, blocking off light and views down Penhallow to Bow Street and the waterfront. In contrast, in the current Principle Group’s design concept, the !  
proposed pavilion complex is considerably lower and setback so that views of both Bow and Ceres streets from Penhallow are retained, a high priority for many of the Portsmouth Listens participants.

Additionally, rather than a large open green lawn like Prescott Park, the current design offers more intimate pockets of open green space along Bow and Penhallow streets and between the Pavillon and the existing McIntyre building. The translucent arched Pavillon, a major component of the overall design scheme, maintains a view of St. John’s Church and provides for a covered public area that can be used year round for a farmer’s market, Christmas fair, craft demonstrations or other community programs and events that will be of benefit to the City and its residents. The first floor of lower building framing the Pavillon has been set aside for a museum or exhibition space. The upper building framing the Pavillon is rental space, available for retail or food services like a green grocer or cafeteria on the first floor and residential units on the second and third floors with an outdoor terrace above providing a view of the Piscataqua.

Additionally, this proposal respects the architectural integrity of existing McIntyre building, allowing it to be seen from all sides and making it more pedestrian friendly by upgrading the plaza in front of the main entrance. The

building can continue to be used for office space, as originally intended, and the ensuing revenue will guarantee its future maintenance and preservation. A covered corridor between the McIntyre building and the existing post office annex (or a new building) will connect the Pavillon complex to Daniel Street. Here the design scheme calls not only for the return of the post office (with boxes) but more rental space that can be dedicated for public restrooms, a convenience store and pharmacy or other community needs not currently available in the downtown. Such uses can be required by the City to be included in any final development agreement. Underground public parking with more than 80 spaces has also been included. The underground garage will be a!

accessible from both Daniel Street and Bow Street and could provide additional revenue to the City. Bow and Penhallow streets WILL remain open for delivery trucks, on street parking and vehicular traffic.

There is no question that appropriate development of the McIntyre site has been very challenging and continues to be extremely controversial. It has been over a year and a half since a new City Council was elected largely in response to decisions taken by the previous City Council to support the Redgate Kane development proposal. Subsequently the mayor appointed a subcommittee made up of four City Council members tasked with addressing the future development of the site. While it has certainly taken a long time, made even more difficult by COVID, to arrive at this particular proposal, a proposal based upon the vision and values of community members, derived from their participation as members of the 22 Portsmouth Listens groups, it is now time to act.

It is my hope that you will not let “the perfect be the enemy of the good” and will reach out to all the members of the current City Council and urge them to vote in favor of the current proposal, recognizing that we are only at the beginning of the process with more Council votes to be taken in the future, along with approval from the Technical Advisory Committee, the Planning Board and the Historic District Commission, as the design evolves and may be further modified once the financials are developed.

I certainly plan to let all the Council members know of my support. Thank you. Martha Fuller Clark  
Comments for the Herald - “The perfect should not be the enemy of the good”.

This coming Monday, May 17th, the City Council is scheduled to vote on whether or not to accept the draft proposal for the development of the McIntyre site. The proposal has been prepared by the Principle Group and is based on thousands of hours of consulting with more than 250 Portsmouth Listens participants. The design process, guided throughout by the McIntyre subcommittee in conjunction with the Principle Group, was open to everyone, transparent and professional. Input from the community was sought at every phase in order to help the Principle Group finalize the proposal which will be before the Council Monday night. It is important to recognize that if this proposal is approved, we are only at the beginning of the design process and many of the elements will be in need of further definition and specificity. But, for that to happen, we must have a proposal to negotiate with Redgate Kane, the National Park Service and the Government Services Administration. This is the!  
only way the City can gain possession of both the McIntyre building and the rest of the 2 1/4 acre site.

Clearly acquiring the building and the site is undoubtedly one of the most significant investments the City can make in the economic future of our historic downtown which is why the members of the City Council need to hear from you before Monday night. You need to call or email Council members to let them know where you stand and how you would like them to vote. This is your last opportunity to weigh in with your support or lack of support. This is our city and it is our voices that will set the future direction of our historic downtown.

And while the current design proposal is not to everyone's liking, I believe there is much about this proposal to like, especially when compared to the development plan put forth by Redgate Kane. The square footage (without building out over the existing post office annex) is less than half (45.6 percent) of that proposed by Redgate Kane (39,738 GFA vs. 87,236 GFA). And, if the proposed building over the post office annex were to be included, the overall square footage would still be reduced by at least 25% percent (65,945 GSF vs 87,236 GSF), even more if the new building were only two or three stories high. The proposed building heights for the other buildings on the site are two and a half to three stories high, as opposed to the two five and six story buildings proposed by Redgate Kane, both located behind the McIntyre building, blocking off light and views down Penhallow to Bow Street and the waterfront. In contrast, in the current Principle Group's design concept, the!

proposed pavilion complex is considerably lower and setback so that views of both Bow and Ceres streets from Penhallow are retained, a high priority for many of the Portsmouth Listens participants.

Additionally, rather than a large open green lawn like Prescott Park, the current design offers more intimate pockets

of open green space along Bow and Penhallow streets and between the Pavillon and the existing McIntyre building. The translucent arched Pavillon, a major component of the overall design scheme, maintains a view of St. John's Church and provides for a covered public area that can be used year round for a farmer's market, Christmas fair, craft demonstrations or other community programs and events that will be of benefit to the City and its residents. The first floor of lower building framing the Pavillon has been set aside for a museum or exhibition space. The upper building framing the Pavillon is rental space, available for retail or food services like a green grocer or cafeteria on the first floor and residential units on the second and third floors with an outdoor terrace above providing a view of the Piscataqua.

Additionally, this proposal respects the architectural integrity of existing McIntyre building, allowing it to be seen from all sides and making it more pedestrian friendly by upgrading the plaza in front of the main entrance. The building can continue to used for office space, as originally intended, and the ensuing revenue will guarantee its future maintenance and preservation. A covered corridor between the McIntyre building and the existing post office annex (or a new building ) will connect the Pavillon complex to Daniel Street. Here the design scheme calls not only for the return of the post office (with boxes) but more rental space that can be dedicated for public restrooms, a convenience store and pharmacy or other community needs not currently available in the downtown. Such uses can be required by the City to be included in any final development agreement. Underground public parking with more than 80 spaces has also been included. The underground garage will be accessible from both Daniel Street and Bow Street and could provide additional revenue to the City. Bow and Penhallow streets WILL remain open for delivery trucks, on street parking and vehicular traffic.

There is no question that appropriate development of the McIntyre site has been very challenging and continues to be extremely controversial. It has been over a year and a half since a new City Council was elected largely in response to decisions taken by the previous City Council to support the Redgate Kane development proposal. Subsequently the mayor appointed a subcommittee made up of four City Council members tasked with addressing the future development of the site. While it has certainly taken a long time, made even more difficult by COVID, to arrive at this particular proposal, a proposal based upon the vision and values of community members, derived from their participation as members of the 22 Portsmouth Listens groups, it is now time to act.

It is my hope that you will not let "the perfect be the enemy of the good" and will reach out to all the members of the current City Council and urge them to vote in favor of the current proposal, recognizing that we are only at the beginning of the process with more Council votes to be taken in the future, along with approval from the Technical Advisory Committee, the Planning Board and the Historic District Commission, as the design evolves and may be further modified once the financials are developed.

I certainly plan to let all the Council members know of my support. Thank you. Martha Fuller Clark

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 12.226.190.220

**From:** [Catherine DiPentima 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:** McIntyre  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 7:58:19 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Catherine DiPentima (cathrich3@myfairpoint.net) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 06:58:16

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address: 16 Dunlin Way

comments: I am urging you to vote for the current plan from 22 Portsmouth listens groups!  
Now is the time to act before momentum, interest and faith in the council are lost!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 71.168.72.174

**From:** [Bill Hamilton via FormMail.com](mailto:Bill Hamilton 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:** McIntyre  
**Date:** Friday, May 14, 2021 2:43:24 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Bill Hamilton (phineasgraphics2@gmail.com) on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 13:43:21  
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address: 108 Penhallow St

comments: Dear Councilors,

In reviewing the entire process of selecting the best option for the McIntyre project since the seating of this new City Council, I was struck with the following observations.

First, the October 2020 UNH Survey, which elicited 3,495 resident responses clearly indicated that nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents say that having larger, meaningful open public space in one piece between the Federal Building and Bow Street is important (pg.2). And 85% supported this change even if it required a financial commitment from the city to achieve (pg.3). Second most important is return of the Post Office. Third most important is less density and mass. Fourth most important is availability of public parking.

Next, the survey results from the Portsmouth Listens Public Input Process of February 2021 listed "Favorite Places in Portsmouth" as those places (61%) which are open space and/or green, e.g. Prescott Park, Strawberry Banke, Pierce Island, Four-Tree Island, etc. "Square" ranked at 10%. "Food + Drink" 14%. 50% said they would typically get to the McIntyre by car.

Third, we are told that the "McIntyre Survey" of March 18-31, 2021, and, specifically "Roundtable #2 which narrowed the original 9 schemes developed by the Principle Group down to 4 choices had 236 respondents (residents?) of which it is claimed 103 voted for Scheme "I", the most-dense, most-developed, least-open option of them all. In second place was "No selection"—52 people who thought that none of the options was worth voting for. In third place, according to the claim, was option "G", the most open, least developed choice.

The current Option "I" proposal calls for 131,807 sq. ft. of commercial, residential, retail and office space. The Kane/Redgate proposal (which was soundly rejected) called for 153,920 sq. ft. of this same build-out—only 16% more than the current proposal.

I guess I'm concerned as to why the current proposal and the previous survey results don't jive. And I'm also concerned as to why, after repeated requests to both the Principle Group and the Town Manager for the actual survey results of "Roundtable #2", the names and addresses of those who participated and their survey comments (as was readily disclosed in the prior public surveys) has not been granted.

I would think that such information should be available and open to the public.

In closing, I feel that the current "Option I" is not what the citizens of Portsmouth want, as expressed most clearly in previous surveys.

We need to have another UNH Survey of all the Options presented, perhaps even the "Binnie" option, for the broad public support that this "public benefit" project demands.

Bill Hamilton,  
Business owner, 108 Penhallow St. Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 73.149.191.43



**From:** [MaryLou 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:** McIntyre  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:38:19 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
MaryLou McElwain (ml259@comcast.net) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 09:38:17

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address: 259 South Street

comments: Good Morning! In my humble opinion, we should go back ten years and propose “ entry level” apartments for educators, healthcare workers, safety, public works and hospitality. Set an income level. Keep parking for tenants only and put a garden and small public playground on the Bow Street side. What has been proposed throughout this process will be so expensive for retail and restaurants that only high-end chains will be able to afford rent. What Mark McNabb is building diagonally across the street sure looks like the plans from Principle Group or Kane will basically be a duplicate. And bring back the PostOffice with ADA compliant parking and spots for quick stops, as before. I was part of Portsmouth Listens and this design has just gotten worse with each iteration. I know you are in a tough time for decision making but don’t make a major mistake for this building. Thanks for all you do!  
Mary Lou McElwain

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.97.158.178

**From:** [Stephen Pesci 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 for McIntyre Concept Plan  
**Date:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:52:56 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Stephen Pesci (stevepesci@gmail.com) on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 18:52:50

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address: 200 Thornton St

comments: Dear Portsmouth Councilors:

I am writing to ask your support for the McIntyre concept proposal before you on the evening of May 17th. I participated in the design visioning process ably facilitated by the Principle Group over the past several months. I believe it was one of the most thorough, inclusive, and transformative planning processes I have seen in Portsmouth in decades.

The primary elements of the design concept are a remarkable achievement. All concept plans go through refinement and market negotiation; however, this plan uniquely raises the bar for Portsmouth. The envisioned balanced development will fill the void in our downtown core with a vibrant destination for residents and visitors. The concept offers year-round outdoor public space, the return of the post office and the opportunity for quality mixed-use private development and underground parking to meet on-site uses. It is a win for residents and a signature plan for maintaining Portsmouth as a first-class destination.

There is no perfect plan, but I credit the collaborative work of the facilitators and participants with creating a contextually centered mix of uses that should satisfy our federal partners and offer financial reward to the development team.

When Market Square was redesigned in the 1970s it was considered visionary – and certainly had its doubters. Let’s move even more boldly fifty years later with a plan to restore the mercantile core of Portsmouth and embrace the opportunity the McIntyre property return offers our city.

Stephen Pesci  
200 Thornton St  
Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 45.152.180.245

**From:** [Joanne Wolfe 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 for Principle Group McIntyre Option  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 9:12:20 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Joanne Wolfe (JoanneWWolfe@comcast.net) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 08:12:18  
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address: 213 Gates Street, Unit 1

comments: I want to urge the Council to vote in support of the preferred option for the McIntyre property as presented by the Principle Group in order to enable negotiations with Redgate Kane and the National Park Service/GSA to proceed. I participated in the Principle Group survey and voted in support of the preferred option. I also want applaud the Subcommittee for the hard work and transparent process that has gotten us to this point. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 24.61.218.67

**From:** [Laurie A McCray 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:** Tonight's vote on McIntyre draft proposal  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 3:15:02 PM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
Laurie A McCray (lauriemccray@myfairpoint.net) on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 14:15:00

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address: 15 Haven Rd

comments: I was an active participant this year in the Portsmouth Listens McIntyre design process, including taking advantage of office hours with the Principle Group that were open to the public. Recognizing the proposed design will likely evolve and have further modifications, I ask each of you to vote IN FAVOR of the current proposal this evening. It is now time to to move forward so that appropriate negotiations can finally begin with Redgate Kane, the NPS, and the GSA. Thank you for this consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 72.65.103.97

**From:** [James A Hewitt 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:** West End Yards Rents  
**Date:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 8:14:27 AM

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
James A Hewitt (samjakemax@aol.com) on Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 07:14:25

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address: 726 Middle Road

comments: Dear Mayor Becksted and City Councilors:

I wish to make the City Council aware of a misprint/misquote by Portsmouth Housing Authority Director Craig Welch in a recent article about rents at West End Yards.  
<https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/2021/05/12/portsmouth-nh-pricey-apartments-west-end-yards-workforce-housing/4988729001/>

There will be no workforce housing units at West End Yards. That fact bears repeating. There will be no workforce housing units at West End Yards.

As Portsmouth workforce housing enthusiasts remember well, on March 21, 2019, City Hall and the Planning Board voted to enrich their developer friends at the expense of a community in desperate need of housing that tourism/hospitality workers can afford. A summary of that evening's events can be read here.  
<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20191013/developers-continue-to-run-roughshod-over-city-boards>

“Workforce Housing“ is legally defined in New Hampshire RSA 674:58 and in the definition section of the Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance. In Portsmouth, a workforce housing unit must be a minimum of 800 square feet and rent for 30% of the monthly income of a 3-person household that makes 60% of the medium income in the Portsmouth-Rochester area. These income brackets are published annually by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on April 1. As of that date this year, the rent for a true workforce apartment in Portsmouth is \$1,440/mo.

West End Yards should have had 54 workforce units. Instead, the Planning Board granted Torrington Properties its wish to have half that amount at rents they chose. These 27 units are “below market rate housing”, not “workforce housing”, and must be referred to as such.

The deal should have been West End Yards gets more apartments per acre than the zoning ordinance allows (to allow Torrington Properties more profit) and in exchange, the developer was to provide Portsmouth 54 units of workforce housing. Instead, the developer got his extra profit, and Portsmouth got no workforce housing. In other words, Torrington Properties got the gold mine, the People of Portsmouth got the shaft.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 66.31.1.195