

May 6, 2018

To: Dexter Legg, Chair, Planning Board  
From: Robin Albert Lehman, resident  
401 State St. #M304  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

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BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Dexter,

I am writing at this time in full support of the Court Street Workforce Housing Project. What an amazing opportunity consistent with the Portsmouth Listens Study Circles on Housing (in which I participated) and our city's Master plan.

I have voiced my support to Craig Welch, and agree with him on many aspects of the proposed project. These are the areas that are most important to me and I think to the city:

- PHA has experience in winning tax credits and managing tax credit financed property. This will be the fifth time that PHA has been awarded federal tax credits.
- Excellent location. Walkable to thousands of jobs. Surrounded by other buildings of similar size, including the Fire Station, Portsmouth District Court, Feaster Apartments, Middle School and Library.
- Portsmouth has always had a lot of pride for being a city that is inclusive, socially and economically diverse community. We call ourselves the City of the Open Door. But that part of what makes Portsmouth such an amazing place is slipping away.
- Most small cities in the country and certainly in New Hampshire envy our creative economy. The people who are the workforce of this creative economy, the artists, musicians, directors, actors, historians should be able to live here, not just sell their wares or to entertain us.
- People who choose professions because they are inspired by the mission of their work generally do not make lots of money. Teachers, senior service providers, first responders, artists, non-profit professionals, religious organizations bring a rich quality to the life of Portsmouth. We all benefit from the contribution these people make to the fabric of our city, and we're a better city if they cannot just work here, but also live here.
- We've said over and over again that we want more affordable housing for the local workforce. How many more committees do we need before we do something?
- The City should grant the variances that will help to make this financially feasible, which means allow a little more height and decrease the requirements to build very expensive parking.

**If not here, then where? If not now, then when? If not a local non-profit, then who?**

Thank you for your service to the city.  
Regards,

*Robin Albert Lehman*

