

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: February 17, 2022 (after 9:00 a.m.) – February 22, 2022 (before 4:30 p.m.)

February 22, 2022 Council Meeting

New content:

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 09:46

Full Name

Sam Oconnor

Email

samoc2014@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

252 elm st

Cambridge, Massachusetts. 02139

Message

Would love to visit Portsmouth on free weekends and experience outdoor dining! My mother will only eat outdoors still due to the Pandemic, so this experience in cities like Portsmouth would allow us to still travel safely and comfortably.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 09:56

Full Name

CORINNE NORRIS

Email

CANDGNORRIS@HOTMAIL.COM

Subject

outdoor dining

Address

145 BREWERY LANE APT 318

Message

I am in favor of continuing outdoor dining especially if the restaurants will benefit from that option.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 09:59

Full Name

Andrea DuPont

Email

andrea@andreadupont.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

89 Blue Heron Drive

Message

Out door dining has been a life saver in so many ways! It has brought our city together . I can't imagine it any other way.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 12:02

Full Name

Britnee DiLorenzo

Email

britneendilorenzo@gmail.com

Subject

Keep Outdoor Dining Summer '22

Address

235D Portsmouth Ave
Stratham, New Hampshire. 03885

Message

Please allow restaurants downtown to continue to use outdoor dining spaces. The last two years have been extremely tough on restaurants financially and we saw more than a few close. Allowing restaurants to keep their outdoor spaces would help make up for lost income from two years of reduced capacity and/or closures during the worst of the pandemic. Also many diners will still not be comfortable in small enclosed spaces at full capacity with recirculated air from AC running inside and would feel safer dining outdoors, which I understand especially as a parent of an infant who is unable to get vaccinated. We would love to be able to live a somewhat normal life again, but dining indoors with her is not an option for us, especially considering the mask mandates ending. There's more than enough parking in the garages and the streets are wide enough to accommodate outdoor dining, and it's overall more pleasant. We know it works logistically. We're still in an active pandemic with higher case counts now than last summer when we were dining outdoors across the city. There's no reason not to allow for outdoor dining.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 12:25

Full Name

Ian MacDonald

Email

imacdd22@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

86 farm lane

Message

Outdoor dining is amazing! We need to keep it going! People love to eat outside especially since Covid it's nice to be able to go to your favorite restaurant and not be surrounded by others indoors if that's something you are worried about. Please keep outdoor dining

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 12:52

Full Name

Linda Briolat

Email

lbriolat@comcast.net

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

260 Thornton St

Message

Dear Councilors,

I'm writing in support of the outside dining. I believe that restaurants are still struggling and eating outside still appeals to a lot of people and visitors. It also adds a vibrancy to Portsmouth that is palpable.

On a second note thank you for acting with decorum and kindness. It's a great model for moving forward.

Linda Briolat

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 13:03

Full Name

Jill Federico

Email

jillfed06@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

36 Daniel st

Message

Outdoor dining in Portsmouth was one of the best thing to come out of COVID-19, please allow this to continue.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 14:12

Full Name

David Schroeder

Email

david.schroeder@taobstudios.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining - please keep!

Address

155 Fleet St

Message

My Name is David Schroeder and I'm the owner of Taob Studios, a consulting firm located in Portsmouth since 2016.

The outdoor dining that was started as a result of Covid has been one of the only positives to come out of the pandemic. It truly brings a new level of energy, authenticity and liveliness to the city's downtown area.

It makes the city more walkable, safer and more fun to navigate.

Last summer many of our clients stayed late to enjoy the outdoor dining and great atmosphere.

It is my wish that the city keeps the outdoor dining permanent as I think it's A great asset to the community.

Thanks,

Dave

David Schroeder

Owner, Taob Studios.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 14:31

Full Name

John Paquette

Email

paquettejs@aol.com

Subject

Paquettejs@aol.com

Address

55 congress st, unit 204

Message

I loved the outdoor seating. It kept the downtown lively and I hope we can make that seating option permanent.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 15:18

Full Name

Allison Tompkins

Email

allisonctompkins@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

581 Kearsarge Way

Message

Keep outdoor dining! It's awesome and makes the city feel young and vibrant!

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 17:03

Full Name

Erik Anderson

Email

andy42152@aol.com

Subject

Pease Development Authority / City of Portsmouth

Address

38 Georges Terrace

Message

Dear Councilors,

As the City of Portsmouth representative on the PDA Board of Directors I have informed the full city council on a monthly basis on any activities at PDA that have concerns for the City of Portsmouth. That I feel is best practice for transparency between the two entities so that I can act in the best interest of the city with your thoughts as city councilors as reflected to you through residents. I know I sent a message with regards to PDA BOD actions and concerns last month with some responses sent back.

There is no PDA BOD meeting in the month of February so there are no contemplated actions to consider. The next PDA BOD meeting will be in March and upon receipt of the agenda I will inform you of any pending actions.

There is one project in development that I think is note worthy and has received some public awareness. That project is the Kane / PROCON building and development of a E-commerce facility at Pease. Although in preliminary stages of advancement I feel that there is some significant impacts (environmental, aeronautical and ground traffic consequences) to the City of Portsmouth that should gather concern and a position of the city as early as possible.

The 2/22/ 2022 City Counsel meeting agenda will have comments on this project from liaison to PDA , Councilor Lombardi and former liaison Councilor Tabor. I hope you take note on this matter as I feel and understand that this project in full projected build out is very significant in its application and mentioned consequences. I feel that if this project is done correctly it will be a great asset to the community but if out of proportion can produce unfortunate results.

Hope there is value in this message and any replies are welcome.

With Thanks,

Erik Anderson

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 17:21

Full Name

Nick LoGiudice

Email

nicklogiudice@gmail.com

Subject

Note for Support of Continued Outdoor Dining in Portsmouth, NH

Address

530 State St

Message

Dear Mayor McEachern, Asst Mayor Kelley, and the members of the Portsmouth City Council, over the last couple years outdoor dining has not only been a lifeline for many of the restaurants in our community, but has also made the warmer months more enjoyable in downtown Portsmouth for visitors and residents alike. Having lived in Portsmouth for the last 4 years, and worked with hundreds of restaurants in NH and ME throughout the pandemic (for my job), I've seen the overwhelming positive impact that outdoor dining has had on our community and ones of similar size. Restaurants that have weathered the waves of restrictions over the last 2 years and successfully implemented successful, safe, and accessible outdoor dining should be allowed to do so this summer.

Along with this, I believe it would benefit the City, business owners, and residents to have the groundwork set up for a permanent outdoor dining policy. This would allow all parties involved, directly benefiting or not, to prepare and invest accordingly for Outdoor Dining in Portsmouth. The negative impact that many of the city's restaurants have endured does not simply go away with the last of the pandemic restrictions. In many cases it will take years to rebuild sales, labor forces, and overall profits to pre pandemic numbers. Outdoor dining being available in 2022 and beyond would certainly help restaurants not only survive the upcoming months but begin to rebuild the business they've worked so hard for. Having a plan that restaurants can consult and prepare for on a yearly basis so that they can make necessary investments in outdoor dining spaces, hiring, and menu planning will be instrumental in the long term success of any temporary or permanent Outdoor Dining policy.

With the general public becoming more comfortable dining out, there may also be a decrease in takeout/to go ordering, which many restaurants lean heavily on during the colder months. Having the extra capacity for sit-down service will help replace this revenue stream or work alongside it. Along with this many of the people that have enjoyed outdoor dining in the past wish to see it continue in the future (see National Restaurant Association Article linked Below). Many people compare outdoor dining in Portsmouth and surrounding cities to how European countries and cities have been doing it for decades. I believe that like many cities in the US and abroad, having outdoor dining as a permanent fixture in our summer offerings will also attract visitors to the city during our peak tourism months. On the other hand, if we do not continue effectively offering it, we may lose many of these visitors to neighboring cities that may continue the practice (Newburyport, Kittery, York, Portland, Portland, Boston, etc). The increase in tourism would also have positive effects for city retailers that depend heavily on foot traffic and tourism during the busy seasons.

The people that oppose outdoor dining in the city generally have valid business and logical reasoning to back their opinion. With that said I believe that with proper planning and communication the "negatives" of Outdoor Dining will be able to be mitigated, and far surpassed by the economic benefit to the local economy. Some of these complaints that I've seen on facebook stem from blocking accessible parking spots, limiting parking, blocking delivery zones for retailers, etc. Where my area of expertise is certainly not in traffic pattern design, parking allocations, or really anything that has to do with city planning I believe opening up the discussing with local retailers, residents, and vendors to find ways around some of their issues with the previous Outdoor Dining policy would help a permanent policy take shape. Some of these. Where I generally would not suggest adding more red tape to the process of applying and approving outdoor dining for restaurants, I think it would be worth referencing how other larger cities with similar restaurant and retail heavy downtown areas have gone about their outdoor dining plans.

In conclusion I believe that outdoor dining will continue to positively affect the businesses and residents of this community if allowed in the future, and should be worked into the city planning. With members of this council being heavily involved in the local service industry I have faith that you will be able to review all options and draft plans that will benefit the city and all of its businesses and residents alike!

Thank you for your time and consideration while reviewing my note of support!

Nick

Supplemental Information

- National Restaurant Association - Consumers want to keep 'streeteries' in place beyond the pandemic

<https://restaurant.org/education-and-resources/resource-library/consumers-want-to-keep-'streeteries'-in-place-beyond-the-pandemic/>

- Real restaurant sales fell below pre-pandemic levels in December

<https://restaurant.org/research-and-media/research/economists-notebook/analysis-commentary/real-restaurant-sales-fell-below-pre-pandemic-levels-in-december/>

- Portland ME Permitting and Inspections for Outdoor Dining on Public Place

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16821/Outdoor-Dining-Public-Property>

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Thu, 02/17/2022 - 18:21

Full Name

Kimberly Lorencic

Email

kimberly.lorencic@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

209 Marcy Street

Message

I would appreciate outdoor dining to continue. Love outdoor dining in Portsmouth. My husband and I frequently dine outdoors and inside too. Love this city - our home.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Fri, 02/18/2022 - 12:26

Full Name

Peter Egelston

Email

peter@portsmouthbrewery.com

Subject

Outdoor dining in 2022 and beyond

Address

56 Market Street

Message

Good morning,

I'm writing, in my capacity as co-owner of the Portsmouth Brewery, in support of continuing the practice begun two years ago of allowing city restaurants to utilize public spaces for outdoor dining.

When it was first proposed, I was skeptical of the idea. However, I soon came to see that the presence of people enjoying outdoor dining throughout downtown gave the city a special energy and vibrancy, and I now am a strong supporter of making it a permanent feature of our city's hospitality landscape.

In a larger sense, I believe we are in the midst of a cultural shift, moving away from one that treasured the unimpeded transit and parking of automobiles to one that de-emphasizes the needs of drivers and prioritizes pedestrians and a human-scale use of outdoor spaces. Ten, or even five years ago, the idea of making dozens of public parking spaces unavailable for cars would have been a non-starter. (Consider the initial opposition to converting a handful of spaces to accommodate bike corrals!) This is a time that calls for vision and forward thinking. At a time when many of our city's residents have abandoned downtown Portsmouth, it's time to take seriously the idea that Market Square and its surrounding neighborhood serves as the city's "living room." Let's do more than pay lip service to that concept.

On a practical note, I urge the council to not snuff out a good idea in the crib by imposing a usage fee that is out of reach of restaurant operators who are still suffering the dual impact of lower revenues and staffing shortages. I am concerned that the council may be tempted by the argument that the fee restaurants are charged to use a parking space should be based on a "lost revenue" model. As long as the city's parking occupancy rate is not 100% (which is certainly not), that argument is not very compelling. If I can't park my car in front of the Portsmouth Brewery, I am not going to turn around and go back to Amesbury - I will find a space in the newly available McIntyre lot, the Deer Street Garage or somewhere else within a five minute walk to my destination. That's what people have always done, and that's what they'll continue to do.

In summary, I would like to see the council strongly support the use of public space for outdoor dining, and to implement a fee and regulatory structure that considers the needs of both the City and its hospitality community.

Regards,

P-

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Updated 2.22.2022 8:59AM

Created: Sat, 2/19/2022 10:20

Full Name

James Hewitt

Email

samjakemax@aol.com

Subject

Equity and Inclusion

Address

726 Middle Road
Portsmouth , New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear Mayor McEachern and City Councilors:

Below is a link to the City Council packet for this Tuesday's meeting. I noted on page 229 the link to more information on EVs is active while the link for more on information on EVs on page 81 is not.

In the interest of equity and inclusion, I would respectfully request the City Council to direct its subordinates in City Hall activate all internet links that are provided in the CC packet.

cc022222cp-2.pdf (cityofportsmouth.com)

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

P.S. I checked the box to have this included in the CC packet and public record

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Sat, 2/19/2022 14:30

Full Name

Rachel Kurshan

Email

rk00@comcast.net

Subject

Mask Ordinance

Address

33 Humphrey's Court
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Rather than postponing the third reading of the proposed mask ordinance, it is my opinion that it should be passed with the positivity rate provision that renders it moot when the transmission rate is low. This way, if case numbers once again start climbing, the mask ordinance will already be in place without the need for further notice, debate and delay. My experience at Spinnaker, for example, over the past week has been that when mask wearing reverted to being "highly recommended" but not required, most people opted to forgo masks. As a person at high risk of severe illness due to age, this concerns me should it happen at a time of widespread transmission. I too would prefer to be able to enjoy an indoor setting setting such as Spinnaker in as safe a manner as possible, without the need to remain at home for weeks pending approval of a new ordinance.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Sat, 2/19/2022 21:34

Full Name

Conley Roberto

Email

conleyburns21@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

57b albacore way
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Continue outdoor dining

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Sun, 2/20/22 08:01

Full Name

Phebe Moore

Email

phe.moore19@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

66 Cass Street
Portsmouth , New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Please keep outdoor dining in Portsmouth. It has been amazing being able to enjoy the outside atmosphere at many of Portsmouth's best restaurants and allowing these businesses to make up for all they have lost during this pandemic. Keeping outdoor dining helps the city thrive even more and allow its residents to enjoy being outside at many more places.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Sun, 2/20/2022 15:16

Full Name

Barbara Jenny

Email workingstiff@comcast.net

Subject

Please vote NO to continued outdoor dining on Pleasant St. between Court & State Streets

Address

94 Pleasant St
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I remain concerned that the committee's focus in recent deliberations re. continued outdoor dining in public spaces was solely on restaurants and not on the success of ALL businesses downtown. Indeed, the opening sentence of the City Manager's report says this: "The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding Governor's State of Emergency Declaration had a profound impact on local restaurants by imposing significant limitations on indoor dining."

Covid has had a profound negative impact on ALL businesses. The effect on other businesses isn't even mentioned until the bottom of the 4th paragraph in the CM's memo.

The City should not need a transitional approach to make this decision: it can look to user experiences, police log data, and photographs from abutters (myself included) to plainly see that outdoor dining was not "vibrant" in all spaces.

On beautifully lit alleyways, some were absolutely charming and lovely. But the sand-bagged, barricaded, "DO NOT ENTER signed" streets looked like riot or demolition zones—not "vibrant European outdoor cafes." When they abutted construction projects, it was mayhem.

And on the changed-traffic portion of Pleasant St., between Court & State streets, it was actually dangerous. I and my tenants personally witnessed cars driving the wrong way on that temporary one-way multiple times a day, every day. A neighbor personally witnessed a pedestrian trip on the barricades and fall hard, into traffic.

In addition, if one wanted to walk on the east side of Pleasant between Court and State, one often had to hold one's breath through the now-narrowed gauntlet of a sidewalk, through cigarette smoke of indoor patrons coming outside to smoke by the restaurant door.

Of considerable note: at least twice when family members sought to eat at the bar's outdoor space, they were told only the inside was open due to staffing shortages.

I have nothing personal against the this bar/restaurant.

But allowing an outdoor dining space...

- Formed with aesthetically challenged jersey barriers,
- Sporting unapproved banners with personal messages,
- In the road, taking up a full lane,
- And thus changing the traffic from 2-way to 1-way,
- With ugly barricades, sand bags,
- and signs that blow down regularly, creating trip hazards for pedestrians and confusion to drivers,
- While abutting a property that is now a derelict eye-sore,
- and as soon as this spring may be an active construction zone,
- For a bar, with bountiful indoor seating, open and active until 1 am daily,
- Which already creates regular excessive noise, outside, from its indoor patrons,
- And prompts many police calls a year for noise and violence,
- And which much of the time last year was unused due to cool or rainy weather, and staffing shortages

...is not a vote for "vibrancy." Rather it is a vote for continuing to negatively impacting commercial and residential abutters, and to renew a traffic change that has already proved dangerous to pedestrians and drivers.

The slide show I shared previously was meant to detail all the negative impacts on our one corner of downtown last year—most of them with no notification to us as property owners.

So when you consider your vote for altering Pleasant St between Court and State for another 3/4-of-the-year "season," please consider all potential negative impacts in addition to the outdoor dining, and use data that is already available rather than choosing to collect one more season's worth.

At the very least, if for some reason you feel you need to create the the problem on Pleasant between Court & State all over again, please at least limit the window to July 1 to Labor Day for this situation, since this time period is the warm part of the season when diners actually want to be outside, and the Clipper is likely to have enough staff.

I appreciate your further consideration and support for the success and wellness of ALL downtown businesses and residents.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Sun, 2/20/2022 16:31

Full Name

Sarah Lachance

Email

selachance@gmail.com

Subject

Elwyn Park CIP

Address 316 Coolidge Drive
Portsmouth , New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I'm writing in support of the sidewalks and Complete Streets plan outlined in the CIP and Councilor Bagley's request to advance the implementation to FY23.

As a resident of the Park, I was initially skeptical of the idea of sidewalks. After reviewing the plan, I can see that it's a balanced and thoughtful approach to ensure that the main pathways to Dondero are supported.

It's also important for pedestrian pathways beyond school use. I, like many of my neighbors of all ages, walk regularly and a sidewalk on McKinley will go a long way to make these trips safer.

I'd ask that any sidewalks in place easily support snow removal equipment. The pathway on Hoover has a light post in the middle of it which makes snow removal challenging.

I also support pairing this work with the long overdue paving project in order to minimize disruption and save costs.

Thank you!

Sarah

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Mon, 2/21/2022 11:58

Full Name

Elizabeth Mooney

Email

elizabethvmooney@hotmail.com

Subject

PDA and Portsmouth International Airport

Address

176 Woodlawn Circle
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Re: Pease Development Authority and Portsmouth International Airport

Dear City Councilors: In published reports about PDA plans to establish an air cargo hub and expand passenger service at the airport, two glaring omissions caught my attention.

First, the City of Portsmouth lacks any restrictions on landing and take-off times. Nantucket, MA, Naples, FL, and Oakland, CA, "are but a few of the many U.S. municipalities that have enacted legislation that prohibits take-off and landing between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted in the UK have similar regulations prohibiting flights between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m."

(Guest editorial, published 2/8/22 in the Portsmouth Herald, by Dr. Clinton Frederick Miller II, a Rye resident who is former chief of staff of Portsmouth Regional Hospital.)

Second, the issue of flight paths is not addressed at all by PDA officials in any published reports I have read so far. Specifically, I refer to the air traffic control direction of individual take-offs and landings so that they are dispersed, rather than following a single "path" over the same ground area in the airport vicinity.

Right now, air traffic out of Portsmouth International Airport is minimal so these two issues are not really a concern. However, they most certainly will be going forward. The time is now to address them, with the PDA and with state and federal elected officials, elected and appointed..

It would be most helpful to all city residents if the City Council would publicize measures it is

taking to ensure that this worthy economic development does not impose an unnecessary and substantial degradation in quality of life. Noise is pollution and harmful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Liz Mooney
Woodlawn Circle

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: 2/21/2022 15:52

Full Name

Kelly Bronchuk

Email

kbronk214@hotmail.com

Subject

Elwyn park calming measures

Address

85 grant ave
Portsmouth , New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Good evening,
I just wish to say my whole family supports and is in favor of more crosswalks and sidewalks in elwyn park. I have two young children who love walking to Dondero every day. The lack of sidewalks or pedestrian lanes throughout most of elwyn park makes it super unsafe. We live right off elwyn road and I don't feel safe even putting a basketball hoop in my driveway for them to play because of all the traffic cutting through and speeding. All the roads that connect to elwyn rd and Lafayette rd have the same problems with speeding and cutting through. As much as I don't care for speed humps, I feel like having them on all the roads that connect to these major roads will stop a lot of the cutting through and speeding. Currently there is a two way stop in front of my house at the intersection of grant and Edgewood, maybe making it a 3 way stop would slow down a lot of speeding through. This end of the neighborhood is starting

to welcome lots of new families with small children that I'm sure would love to walk to school safely. Please consider pushing up the date for implementing traffic calming in elwyn park.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: 2/21/2022 16:50

Full Name

LouAnn Bronson

Email

4labronson@comcast.net

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

4 Hughes Lane
Greenland, New Hampshire. 03840

Message

Please expand the outdoor dining options downtown. It has made Portsmouth a warm and inviting community.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Mon, 2/21/2022 16:52

Full Name

N. W. Barrett

Email

gallery@nwbarrett.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

53 Market Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I have had a gallery in Portsmouth since 1985, first in Commercial Alley and then, since 1988, at 53 Market Street. It is clear to me that this city works best when all of its businesses are thriving. The Covid pandemic severely impacted all of us beginning in early 2020, and disruptions have continued to this day. Further, the shortage of parking has been a problem in the city for a number of years, and losing precious spaces to outdoor dining in 2020 and 2021 had a serious impact on all of us. Our customers frequently complained at the difficulty finding a place to park, or they had little time to shop since the only parking they could find was a 15-minute spot. Furthermore, my store has a back entrance on Penhallow Street that artists and craftspeople use when they are dropping off work, as well as customers when they are picking up large paintings or furniture. With the loss of parking on Penhallow, these artists and customers were greatly inconvenienced.

I appreciate that the city is now instituting a fee that restaurants must pay for the public space they are using. Regardless, allowing the restaurants to again push their businesses into areas intended for all of—taking over parking spaces, clogging the sidewalks, not to mention the unattractive jersey barriers—will again negatively impact the retail and service businesses in the city. The City Council cannot simply allow the restaurants to have all the space they want. Retail businesses will suffer, and that will not be good for any of us.

Thank you,
N. W. Barrett

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Mon, 2/21/2022 18:01

Full Name

Richard & Michelle Brabazon

Email

rnbrab@gmail.com

Subject

No to Elwyn Park CIP to 2023

Address

260 McKinley Rd
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801-5771

Message

TO: Portsmouth NH City Councilors
FROM: Richard & Michelle Brabazon
260 McKinley Road
RE: Elwyn Park Sidewalks and CIP
DATE: 21 February 2022

We are not in favor of moving the Elwyn Park Traffic calming measures from FY 24 and 25 to FY 23 with a 1.6 million dollar bond. Here are some of the reasons we feel this way.

1. It is fiscally irresponsible. The 2010 Safe routes to school study and the 2019 study both discuss traffic calming measure that should be taken ahead of sidewalks. Even though the city adopted the 2010 plan, none of these measure have been taken and they are much less expensive than sidewalks. These measure include lighted signs for crosswalks and school zones. Currently there are only a couple of signs stating pedestrian crossings on Van Buren. There are no school zone signs. There are no lighted signs. Not even one flashing yellow light when school is opening or closing. Also mentioned are raised sidewalks with reflectors and better signage. Many of the roads, including Fillmore at Van Buren, and Adams at Van Buren don't even have a sidewalk never mind a brightly painted, reflected or lit one with signage. Both studies suggest bike paths. The 2019 study suggests a bike path with reflectors where there would be no parking during school hours. The current path is just a line down the street.

2. We, along with many of our neighbors have invested significant money in our driveways to double them in width. This allows us to park four cars (2 behind the first 2). If the sidewalks are built by taking 5 feet of the city's egress to build it on our front lawn, we will not be able to park behind each other without infringing on the sidewalk...and the other 2 cars will end up in the street, not to mention that we would be losing part of our front lawn. It is very easy to be in support of theoretical sidewalks when they are on the other side of the street but until it is actually in your front yard... you don't understand.

3. We see people walking all the time in front of our house. Many times they are large groups. Almost no one uses the multi use path that is in front of our house. I don't foresee large groups using the sidewalks either but it will push them further into the street. Bicyclists will also be forced closer to the road since they won't be using the multi use path that will become a sidewalk. When we walk "the loop" from our house around the woodlands we can only use the sidewalk sometimes because they are not kept up and often more dangerous to walk or run on than the streets. There is no reason to believe this sidewalk would be any different.

4. The main concern is to slow down traffic and keep people safe. Obviously we are in favor of that. Once again no fiscally more responsible options have been tried as recommended by both studies. There are no speed humps or flashing lights, no signs, including school zone signs, except for the normal speed limit sign. There are very few crosswalks and none that are brightly painted, lit up or have reflectors. Occasionally we get a sign near the front of our house put up by the traffic and safety committee that flashes your speed limit. It doesn't even tell you to slow down if you're going over the limit.

5. Attached please find a copy of a letter from The Portsmouth Police Dept. Indicating there were 18 total accidents involving McKinley Road in the TEN years from Jan 1, 2010 to Jan 1 2020. Of these accidents, thankfully NONE involved pedestrians. One involved a bicyclist. Further investigation will show that the bicycle ran a stop sign and hit the car. None of the accidents would have been prevented by sidewalks.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider more fiscally responsible alternatives before moving this to the 2023 CIP.

Below is a copy of the letter from the Police Dept regarding accidents on McKinley Rd.

Robert M. Merner

CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE

DATE:

TO:

FROM:

RE:

March 13, 2020

Richard Brabazon

Nicole Pappaioanou, Records Unit M

Accidents on McKinley Rd

The response to Ms. Bouzakine's request that I sent her on March 9, 2020 regarding the number

of accidents on McKinley Rd for the date range of January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2020 was incorrect in the breakdown of accidents. The total number remains the same. I have mailed her this updated information as well.

18 total accidents involving McKinley Rd

Breakdown:

12 accidents at the intersection of Lafayette Rd and McKinley Rd

1 at intersection of McKinley Rd and Taylor Ln (tractor trailer into telephone/cable lines)

1 at intersection of McKinley Rd and Grant Ave (2 vehicles involved)

1 at intersection of McKinley Rd and Taft Rd (1 vehicle hit the stop sign)

1 at intersection of McKinley Rd and Coolidge Dr (vehicle and bicycle)

1 at 315 McKinley Rd (tractor trailer into telephone pole)

1 at 177 McKinley Rd (hit and run of a parked vehicle)

3 JUNKINS AVENUE • PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03801 • (603) 427-1500 • FAX: (603) 427-1510 • TTY/TDD (603) 433-332
email: [into@pd.cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:info@pd.cityofportsmouth.com)

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Mon, 2/21/2022 19:15

Full Name

Brenna Jennings

Email

brennaj@gmail.com

Subject

Yes to Elwyn Park safety improvements

Address

54 Taft Rd
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

When my eighth-grader was a mere kindergartner I wrote this letter to the Herald regarding traffic around Elwyn Park: <https://www.seacoastonline.com/story/news/local/portsmouth-herald/2014/03/13/slow-down-coming-going-at/38277834007/>

Our own Dondero days are memories, but there are more strollers, tricycles, and wagons now than I think I've ever seen in this neighborhood. All of those kids should feel as safe getting to school as they will inside its doors.

We don't live on a street that would be impacted by sidewalk construction but know that if we were, we'd gladly relinquish our setback and then some.

Thank you all for your time, and to Councilor Bagley for bringing this forward.
Brenna Jennings & Steve DeTrolio

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Mon, 2/21/2022 21:37

Full Name

steven detrolio

Emai

l2ndstate@gmail.com

Subject

Elwyn Park Traffic Calming/Safe Routes to Schools

Address

54 Taft Rd
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

To All City Councilors,

I am writing to voice my support for traffic calming and pedestrian improvements in Elwyn Park. Very simply, the majority of residents of the neighborhood are in favor of some form of traffic calming, and are also in favor of sidewalks in accordance with the Safe Routes to School Action Plan.

Speaking for myself, I believe it would be a significant statement to make, to say that the streets belong not just to the cars but to the bikes and to the pedestrians equally (and the scooters, and skateboards, etc!) There is small group of people who resist change, and who have been able to delay this project for a few years already. I say, let us delay no further.

Let's give the kids safe routes to school, and give their parents some peace of mind. Let's also make the streets safe and available to all who wish to use them.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Detrolio

54 Taft Rd
Elwyn Park

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Tue, 2/22/2022 11:05

Full Name

Lily Beyer

Email

lbeyer@gmail.com

Subject

Urge to instate Mask Mandate against future surges

Address

218 Rockland St
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Councilors –

I understand that it is likely that the mask mandate ordinance will not be passed as the current positivity rating is below the 8% bar set by the health officer. While I think this is premature, I understand the desire to set a rational limit for requiring masks. However I believe it would be better to put the ordinance into effect, with the understanding that it will be enacted as soon as positivity ratings increase above 8% again. While we may be in a current lull, there is no reason to believe that the current drop in cases will not be followed by a new surge as occurred in September of 2021 and December of 2020. There is already a successor to the omicron variant circulating globally, it would be naive to assume that the current reduction in cases represents an actual end to the pandemic. Putting an ordinance into effect to automatically require masks as soon as testing starts to see an increase would get ahead of increased cases, rather than continuously paying catch up and reacting after the numbers get out of control.

We are still at 60% likelihood of having a positive case in a gathering of 50 people (such as a grocery store or restaurant), as shown in the Georgia Tech covid risk tracking app, <https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu/>. It would be safer for everyone, particularly the most vulnerable, if everyone were wearing a mask in that situation.

I urge you to create an ordinance that would automatically go into effect if cases rise – that way we as a city are ahead of the curve when the next spike in cases comes, and we can keep as many people safe as possible.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Tue, 2/22/2022 11:40

Full Name

Amy-Mae Court

Email

amymaemassage@gmail.com

Subject

Elwyn Park

Address

47 Taft Rd
Portsmouth , New Hampshire. 03801

Message

A quick note to show support for Elwyn Park traffic calming, specifically for sidewalks as a part of the “safe walk to school” initiative. Thanks!

-Amy-Mae Court

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Tue, 2/22/2022 12:57

Full Name

Kelly Sieper

Email

kellysieper@gmail.com

Subject

Elwyn Park CIP

Address

2 Nixon Park
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Hello,

I am writing in support of moving the Elwyn Park CIP Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Improvement back into the budget for 2023. As a community member and parent of small children I think this work is an essential and necessary project to improve the overall safety of our neighborhood.

Elwyn Park was developed over 50 years ago, and the realities of daily life have changed. As such, the needs of our densely populated multigenerational area have also changed. The roads are used by local traffic, buses, school children, and community members. Driveways are small, and many families park on the roadside to accommodate their needs. Cars use roads to cut from Elwyn Road to Rt 1. Children walk to and from Dondero Elementary school, and wait for their buses during some of the busiest traffic times. Community members want to enjoy the walkability of our area.

Safety can and should remain our top priority. Children should have solutions that allow them to get to school safely. Sidewalks can help accomplish this.

Exploring solutions to these concerns can be researched and proposed in a way that best supports the needs of today and the future of the neighborhood.

I urge you all to strongly consider moving this work forward and allowing the study and plans to continue in 2023.

Thank you,
Kelly Sieper

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Tue, 2/22/2022 15:17

Full Name

Matthew Salito

Email

mcsalito@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining Approval

Address

50 Andrew Jarvis Drive
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Good evening! I am a city employee who works within the school district. I am writing to the City Council in the hopes that you will renew outdoor dining for the upcoming seasons. As someone who partakes in both weekly trivia and live music, I am aware that this is but a small opportunity for me to supplement my income and engage with the local community. However, what I do see in organizing and participating in these activities is the significant wages earned by people who work strictly in the service industry and rely upon such wages to make a living. The importance that outdoor dining has served in the era of the pandemic cannot be overstated. Across the country, we have seen small businesses in the service industry go under. In Portsmouth, we have seen smaller businesses not only survive because of outdoor seating, but thrive as well. Also, to my earlier point, in a time when the city needs it most, outdoor seating has created opportunities for the local community to re-engage with one another, not to mention draw tourists to what many consider a safer environment for interaction. Thank you for your consideration with this plea and request!

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Created: Tue, 2/22/2022 15:52

Full Name

Patrick Ellis

Email

ellis.patrick@comcast.net

Subject

Elwyn Park Traffic Calming and Sidewalks

Address

235 McKinley Road
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Hello: Thank you for your consideration of moving the CIP monies for the Elwyn Park improvements back in the FY 23 CIP Budget. I have lived on McKinley Road for more than 20

years. I raised my two boys, who both attended Dondero school in this wonderful neighborhood.

As wonderful as it is, issues with traffic, and speeding cars has been a growing problem during our time here. The nature of the development with no curbing, and awkward and wide intersections has meant that cars speed up between stop signs, usually to twice or more of the posted speed limit. At our other elementary schools, the City was quick to use "Safe Routes to School" monies to install new sidewalks. It's been more than 10 years since the sidewalk was installed along Clough road on the way to Little Harbor school.

Today, cars can park on the side of the road and straddle the painted pedestrian/bike lane. This creates a false sense of safety for drivers, who may be surprised when a child has to step into the street to walk around a parked car. Any pedestrian would end up directly in the path of an oncoming car.

The sidewalks are not proposed for the "side" street within the neighborhood, but rather on those streets that serve as a through way to the school. Lets help create a safe route to school for the children who attend Dondero and get these sidewalks built, at last!

Notably, I live on McKinley. I recognize that the public right of way includes part of my front yard. I would STILL be happy to see sidewalks installed, even if they were built adjacent to our lot.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes