

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: May 12, 2022 (after 9:00 a.m.) – May 16, 2022 (before 4:30 p.m.)

May 16, 2022 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

**New content:**

**Submitted on Thu, 05/12/2022 - 09:42**

**Full Name**

Brooks Stevens

**Email**

[hbrooksstevens@gmail.com](mailto:hbrooksstevens@gmail.com)

**Subject**

Islington Street Neighborhood Parking Program

**Address**

440-442- Hanover St

**Message**

I am a property owner of a 2 family located at 440-442 Hanover Street which I have owned for over 35 years. I just wanted to state that the Islington St neighborhood parking program has been a great success for the majority of residents and tenants of the neighborhood. Especially those with no off-street parking. Prior to its implementation between the hours of 8 am and 6 PM it was nearly impossible to locate a place to park for the local residents; especially those on Hanover St up to Brewster St. During that time frame workers and shoppers would park on the neighborhood streets and walk into town. Islington St parking program pilot has been a great success and we have gotten our neighborhood back! Thanks in advance for continuing this program and making it permanent. . On a separate note, If a small fee is required per permit to off set some of the cost that the parking department is incurring I as well as most residents/tenants are in agreement with that. \$100.00

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

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**Submitted on Fri, 05/13/2022 - 07:45**

**Full Name**

Scott Bornstein

**Email**

[werscoraja@yahoo.com](mailto:werscoraja@yahoo.com)

**Subject**

Acknowledgement

**Address**

42 Squid St

**Message**

Mr. Mayor, Madame Assistant Mayor, and Council Members;

This letter is sent not as an official document, nor something worthy of entry into the record, though I have no objection to that being done. This letter is sent because, as a citizen who follows your work, meetings and votes more so than the average voter, I need you to know and understand you have overwhelming support here in our neighborhoods and homes. To this point, the transparency, patience with those who might oppose you, diligent work both in the public eye, and in your never-ending work sessions, and availability and honesty with the residents is refreshing and admirable.

To all of you, know that your work is not going unnoticed. That your dedication, and sacrifice is commendable and more importantly, respected by me, and by the majority that placed you. There are those who will oppose what you think, say, or do. Some from the sour grapes perspective, and some from their ideology. Never allow that element to sway you or make you feel uncomfortable. Together, you are setting a new example of leadership, openness, communication and availability. I don't think even those of us who supported this collective could have anticipated this level of professionalism and service so early on.

You were elected to serve, to sacrifice, to delay your own lives for the benefit of OUR city and the community and neighborhoods we all love while calling them home. As we have dinners with our families, attend local events, work our jobs or just couch surf the Red Sox season, your time is spent in small, poorly ventilated rooms absorbing a plethora of information on so many topics, most of us would be long asleep. You however, work, read, listen, learn and vote without dozing and with the attention most topics deserve.

I can go on, but your time is limited, so I will conclude with a simple, but important THANK YOU and be well. What you are doing is known and appreciated by more than you may think.

Scott H Bornstein

Portsmouth

**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, 05/12/2022 - 17:45**

**Full Name**

Maggie Flaherty

**Email**

[maggie.flaherty@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.flaherty@gmail.com)

**Subject**

School Budget

**Address**

860 Maplewood

**Message**

Dear Councilors:

I was able to watch the school budget work session last night and appreciated the thoughtful dialogue. I am writing to express my strong support of passing the budget as proposed. Our school district leadership and members of the school board have engaged in a thorough process to identify the needed resources to ensure a trajectory of student growth. While there are many strengths in our district, there is much room for the improvement of existing services as well as investment in innovative educational practices. This school budget allows for necessary staffing and operations to work toward improving identified areas of need.

Sincerely,

Maggie Flaherty

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

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**Submitted on Sat, 05/14/2022 - 21:49**

**Full Name**

Matthew Glenn

**Email**

[matt.glenn@seacoastbikes.org](mailto:matt.glenn@seacoastbikes.org)

**Subject**

Middle St

**Address**

34 Harrison

**Message**

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I'm disappointed to see that there is little appetite to return the "parking protected" portion of bike lane on Middle St this year. Toole Design had excellent suggestions for ways to improve on it, and showed very clearly why given the high vehicle speeds and volumes a protected lane was needed to allow more than just the "athletic and fearless" bicyclists to use it. Sadly that study was ignored, and now people are accustomed to the wide street again.

This month's report to PTSC from Deborah Finnigan of WSP was frustratingly vague and lacking in evidence— she mentions "speeds between 25 and 35 mph", reports on opinions we've heard before, and says "it's been working fine" without saying for whom. I hope that you push a little more on Monday night.

The data in her formal report shows that outbound at Middle and Aldrich, average speeds were 29 mph before the changes, 27 after, and back to 29 with bollards and protected lane removed. 85th percentile speeds went from 32 to 31 to 33— faster than ever before. So less safe for everybody.

The idea that you could paint "sharrows" on that wide outbound lane with over 11,000 cars a day driving those speeds is ludicrous. Please do a little research on "sharrows" and you will find this is a totally inappropriate place for them. Of the two poor options, an unprotected painted bike lane with buffer for the "door zone" would be preferable to what we have now for those four blocks.

But more than anything, I encourage you to look at the big picture, come up with a better plan for re-paving in a year or two, and connect this street to the nice bike lanes on outer Maplewood. This can be the spine of a great network and open up our city to so many potential riders (and e-bikers, scooters, etc). It's also time for an update to the Bike/Ped plan and more community input. So many improvements can be made at so little cost if there is the will for it.

Thank you all, and I hope you can attend the Mayor's Ride on May 21st to talk in person. Thank you to Mayor McEachern and city staff for bringing back that public celebration.

Matt Glenn

Ps. Great to see bike police training this past week in Prescott Park and on Middle St!

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

**Submitted on Sun, 05/15/2022 - 09:09**

**Full Name**

Gerald Duffy

**Email**

[gduffy44@gmail.com](mailto:gduffy44@gmail.com)

**Subject**

McIntyre - Transparency regarding costs

**Address**

428 Pleasant St. #3

**Message**

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

I'd like to reinforce the message you've been hearing from others (including Michael Simchik in his letter in your meeting packet): to keep the public as informed as possible about the costs to taxpayers of the evolving McIntyre project. As Mr. Simchik and anyone involved in development knows, the figures in the early stages of a project like this can only be provisional until plans are firm enough to be costed out in detail. The previous council would not respond at all to requests for estimates, even broad ranges of potential cost, and they merely asked the public whether we would be prepared for the city to make some kind of undisclosed "investment." Worse still, the previous council refused to acknowledge any potential future costs in their budget process. They fell short of transparency in that regard. I think people following this project know that your challenges here did not begin with you, no matter how vocal former incumbents will be to put any blame on you. Reliable and timely information is this greatest service you can offer us during the months ahead. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Gerald Duffy

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

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**Submitted on Sun, 05/15/2022 - 17:42**

**Full Name**

Gerald Duffy

**Email**

[gduffy44@gmail.com](mailto:gduffy44@gmail.com)

**Subject**

Civil discourse in the Council Chamber

**Address**

428 Pleasant St., Unit 3

**Message**

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

I plan to read the following at the May 16 council meeting during public comment. I'm sending it to you so it gets on the public record.

Regards,

Gerald Duffy

Congratulations to the new mayor and council for setting a very different tone in the Council Chamber. The public and city staff have noticed and appreciate it. The mayor warmly welcomes all speakers, regardless of their demeanor. His expectation on the dais is that elected officials have to develop a thick skin. The mayor has tried to set a higher bar for civility and respect. For example, he's asked citizens to dial back the kind of applause that amplifies division. He is about as respectful and gracious a mayor as we could possibly hope for. Given all that, what happened in this chamber two weeks ago perplexes and disturbs me.

One resident compared the City Attorney's actions regarding the McIntyre project to Vladimir Putin's domestic propaganda campaign about "denazifying" Ukraine. It's that serious, he said.

A former councilor sitting in the back row and the planning board member next to her responded to the Mayor's appeal regarding applause by waving their arms after people they agreed with spoke.

A planning board member applauded himself as he left the podium, stirring up others.

Finally, our former mayor complained how he had personally been bullied from coast to coast, then proceeded to lay into our City Manager, whom parliamentary protocol prevents from defending herself. I know the women on the dais can take really good care of themselves, but it irks me that a man in the 21st century does not get that women are sick of being talked at, talked down to, talked over, and otherwise diminished by men for generations. The former mayor seems oblivious to this fact.

I'd like to remind the previous council that they lost in spectacular fashion last November. Losing can be a great teacher. I'm a competitive fencer and have lost more fights than I've won. But after each loss, I ask myself how I contributed to my own defeat and I try to figure out how to improve next time. I don't blame my opponent or suspect him of foul play. The last thing I would do is presume to give the winner unsolicited advice. The former mayor and councilors had their chance at governing. Voters had an alternative they preferred. The former incumbents have valuable knowledge and experience the city can benefit from. But they know better than anyone that little gets accomplished by grandstanding at the podium. They know that working for change requires more than sounding off; it requires interactive time with elected officials and city staff. While respecting the longtime tradition of public comment, I think a lot of what we see up here is political theater. I urge them to respect the spirit this council brings to the chamber.

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