

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: April 13, 2023 (after 9:00 a.m.) – April 17, 2023 (before 5:00 p.m.)

April 17, 2023 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Thu, 04/13/2023 - 12:27

Full Name

Maeve Shattuck

Email

maevexmargaret@gmail.com

Subject

School security

Address

2 Boyan Pl

Message

We're experiencing a scary situation in the schools today. This is not the first time in the past months, and an increasing problem across the nation. Our kids should feel safe in school, and it's inevitable that with the lack of security and metal detectors these threats will continue. There were BB guns found in the middle school, and yesterday someone was able to bring a gun in front of phs in their car. These places being gun free zones make them a target for people who mean harm. We need to do a better job to keep watch after our schools. There should be as much security if not more than the city courthouse.

I would rather have our kids safe every day than the new building projects we see proposed daily.

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, 04/13/2023 - 15:40

Full Name

Gerald Duffy

Email

gduffy44@gmail.com

Subject

Addressing the Housing Crisis — Making the Most of Changes to ADU Zoning

Address

428 Pleasant Street #3

Message

Dear Mayor and Councilors:

I urge you all to follow the initiative of Councilor Bagley as he fights for ADU zoning with more practical teeth. As he rightly points out, existing policy has been a failure, and the proposed changes don't go far enough. At best, ADUs represent just a thin slither of the overall solution for housing, but it should be as easy and inexpensive as possible for a resident to add one to their home. Residents potentially benefit from being able to house family members nearby or subsidize an inadequate income.

I feel strongly that our housing solutions need to be target-driven, partly so that residents can understand the big picture and complexity of the problem, and see where their support fits in and helps. This also helps residents expect accountability hold the city council's and administration's feet to the fire in terms of performance and real results. I commend the new Land Use Committee under Councilor Moreau's leadership for its work on zoning changes that can enable a better response to our housing crisis. However, the fact that we refer to housing as a "crisis" at all begs the question of why we aren't tackling it with a greater sense of urgency. Currently, design concept-to-ribbon cutting normally takes years but, in spite of a complex constellation of requirements and constraints, the city can surely find innovative ways to tackle this issue more assertively. We already lost one imaginative micro-unit develop and mid-market housing development to ZBA decisions that seem out of touch with our goals and master plan. We may be on the verge of losing another micro-unit development because of outmoded parking requirements. Setting targets would be an excellent start and I urge the council to lead the way with it. We have all the data we need and everyone has enough anecdotal evidence..

An example of how another small city approaches the matter:

<https://kirklandwa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/8899c6a5566349b98765b97a73f721fb>

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

Submitted on Thu, 04/13/2023 - 16:42

Full Name

Kristin Logue

Email

loguekristin40@gmail.com

Subject

Accessory Dwelling Units as proposed by the Land Use Board

Address

536 Middle Road

Message

With the exceptions presented by the legal staff, the ADU policy drafted by the Land Use Board should be adopted as written. Although I don't agree 100%, it is a good compromise, and I did not attend any meetings. I did watch most of them after the live broadcast.

A lot of thoughtful discussion amongst the committee members, the Planning Department Staff, the public and Portsmouth landowners went into drafting the proposed changes. Affordable housing is important, but not at the expense of neighborhoods and neighbors, no matter what neighborhood you live in. When the Bartlett Street intersection was being discussed many said we should listen to the experts, the engineers, the planners etc. We have done this with the ADU changes proposed and reached a compromise.

Affordable housing in Portsmouth is nothing new. When we were looking for an affordable house in Portsmouth in 1985 there were few options. We looked at some of the worst and rundown properties in town. What was important to us was neighborhood and staying in Portsmouth, the town we love. We chose ours not because it was a beautiful house but it was,

1. Affordable,

2. In Portsmouth,

3. Near the highway (we both commuted 10 miles to and from work). And we didn't get snowed in as we had to be at work at 7 a.m. no questions asked.

4. It was on a busy street, but the back yard was large and at the time very private. We've had a few new homes go in but do not infringe on our privacy and they for the most part fit the zoning. We've done projects over the years as we could afford them (currently have a painter/contractor, god bless him, repairing and painting a stairwell that would even scare away the Clampetts.)

ADUs in single family residences in Portsmouth are not going to be affordable. The city won't set the rates, the homeowners will, and they have every right to set it as they wish.

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, 04/13/2023 - 17:38

Full Name

Michele Scott

Email

scottfamilyof4@comcast.net

Subject

Affordable housing

Address

476 Sherburne rd

Message

When has housing been affordable in Portsmouth? I've lived here 40 years and never have I been able to afford to live alone. I am not in favor of subsidized rental housing. It's stigmatizing and perpetuates poverty. I am wholly in favor of helping low income people purchase homes. Community land grants have been very successful in other communities. I am hopeful that Portsmouth will invest in helping working people obtain home ownership.

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, 04/14/2023 - 13:38

Full Name

Steve Bergeron

Email

steve@bergeronappraisal.com

Subject

ADU Ordinance

Address

199 Wibird Street

Message

Dear Portsmouth City Councilor:

In my opinion, the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) draft has been significantly improved over the past several months. Although ADUs are a great fit for many properties in Portsmouth, my main concerns have been drainage issues, privacy, and preserving the property rights of existing homeowners in the city's high-density neighborhoods.

I have a few additional points for your consideration before the new ADU ordinance is finalized:

- The ADU ordinance does not have any requirements regarding drainage, stormwater management, and flooding issues. Considering existing soil conditions and flooding in some city neighborhoods, drainage should be specifically addressed for any new construction in Portsmouth, including ADUs. The ADU ordinance does not consider global warming, rising sea levels, and an increase in extreme weather events. A majority of Portsmouth homes in the city have 100+ year old foundations that are not watertight and rely on sump pumps. New construction in many areas will exacerbate lot flooding and basement flooding issues that already exist. The existing ordinance indicates that an ADU must comply with the zoning ordinance's existing drainage requirements. The existing Portsmouth zoning ordinance needs to address drainage more specifically.
- I disagree with allowing any "Administrative Approval" of ADUs by the Planning Department, and specifically Detached ADUs, as this demonstrates a disregard for any unique neighborhood characteristics that may be of concern to neighbors, such as privacy, lighting, parking, flooding, etc.
- Allowing a developer to create a second residential unit (Detached ADU) on any 3,500 to 7,000 square foot urban lot has a significant impact on privacy, available on-street parking, and lot drainage for abutters. Allowing ADUs as a use by right in Portsmouth neighborhoods with small minimum lot requirements demonstrates a disregard for the property rights of abutters.
- Based on the city's inability to enforce short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods, the expectation that owner-occupancy of ADUs will be enforced seems unrealistic. Are there any real enforcement tools available to city staff to ensure owner-occupancy and prevent short-term rental use of ADUs?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Regards,

Steve Bergeron

199 Wibird Street

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, 04/14/2023 - 15:13

Full Name

James Lamond

Email

jflamond@comcast.net

Subject

Accessory Dwelling Units

Address

84 Haven Rd

Message

Councilors, I oppose any changes to the ADU rules that are intended to make it easier for a property owner to turn a single family home into a multi-family home. The zoning rules exist for a reason and people buy homes with the legitimate expectation that neighborhoods will remain substantially the same over time in terms of population density, open space, traffic, and parking congestion. Thank you for taking my opinion into account.

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 06:16

Full Name

Mike Steinberg

Email

mikes18@comcast.net

Subject

Forget McIntyre , make center of town an open air plaza

Address

17 Sea Glass Lane

Rye , New Hampshire. 03870

Message

I grew up in Portsmouth and live in Rye. It would be nice to take all the energy off the McIntyre building and reroute traffic out of the center of town and create an open air plaza. Restaurants could expand and make it easier for outside eating. It would be safer for people to enjoy all the shops and more events could happen very easily.

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 07:28

Full Name

Kate Baur

Email

mrsboo8@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre

Address

718 State St

Message

Dear councilors,

Please do not pursue the McIntyre building in any way. I don't know how to make this statement any more clear. Please walk away and put our resources to projects that actually need our time, attention and funding.

Thank you.

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 08:32

Full Name

Peter Bergh

Email

pb@princecom.com

Subject

Whether to Purchase McIntyre Site

Address

54 Lincoln Av

Message

Having been involved in the visioning project, I am disappointed that the City could not reach an agreement with Kane, but trust the impasse was because the Council felt that Kane's demands were not in the best long term interests of the City. Personally, I think many residents—myself included—don't understand the pros and cons of the City buying the site. I lean toward the City buying the site, putting appropriate restrictions in place, and then reselling it or developing a long-term agreement with a more amenable developer.

Going forward, I would like to learn:

1. If the City did nothing, what controls would the City have in approving any private project (open space, building height, building density, architectural design, use of buildings, parking etc.)?
2. If the City did buy it, what practical restrictions could be placed on the property to ensure that it was still a positive project for the people of the City, yet still be attractive to sell to a developer with little or no loss?
3. Are there examples of other City's of our size that have successfully made similar purchase/redevelopment efforts and how did they do it?
4. How can the City protect itself from continued legal challenges from groups that may be acting more from self-interest than the best long-term interest of all of the people of Portsmouth.

Thank you for your continued hard work on this project. I am convinced that, redeveloped properly, this site can serve as a vital center for the City for the next 100+ years. In a year where we are celebrating our 400th anniversary, I encourage the Council to continue to treat this issue with the full consideration that it has so diligently done for the past couple of years and to strive to ensure, no matter how the redevelopment is structured, that it benefits the people of Portsmouth at least as much as any single developer.

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 11:26

Full Name

Brian Gibb

Email

bkgjbb@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Project Feedback

Address

348 Maplewood Ave

Message

Honorable Councilors, I have been a solid advocate of this project to date but I urge you to strongly consider moving on at this point. I agree with others that believe we have already spent too much money and capacity on it with little return and no clear or assured path to success. I don't have to tell you that we have many other pressing issues that warrant your attention. I firmly believe that allowing the property be sold to a private buyer will result in the best outcome for the community at this point. Thanks for all of your efforts to date and for your overall service. Respectfully, Brian Gibb

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 11:26

Full Name

Peter Somssich

Email

peter.somssich@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Building

Address

34 Swett Ave.

Message

Thank you for filing the lawsuit against our developer, Mr. Kane. I agree with your suit which mentioned that the developer did not negotiate in good faith. I also think it is a good idea to closely consider the purchase of the McIntyre property should the GSA put it off for sale. It is perhaps without the city's power to rezone the property, making it less valuable for development that we do not want to encourage, and more useful for public benefit use. If a purchase of the property is financially viable, the city must be in control of any new developer that we would engage, with clear exit strategies and financial benefits.

Best Regards, Peter Somssich

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 12:06

Full Name

Ronda Caron

Email

njoy1269@aol.com

Subject

McIntyre NO

Address

325 Thaxter Rd

Message

If you couldn't get it done for \$1 what makes you think as citizens we want you to pay market rates?! Big fat NO to McIntyre purchase.

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 12:43

Full Name

ALLISON TANNER

Email

inventivetechnologies@comcast.net

Subject

McIntyre project

Address

380 Greenleaf Avenue

Message

Please purchase the building if it can be turned into affordable housing units. Portsmouth Housing Authority did a nice job with the affordable units on Court Street, so maybe working with them is a possibility. Rip up the asphalt behind the building not needed for resident parking and put in a park. If this is not feasible, could a portion of the building be used as a police station?

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 14:41

Full Name

Barbara DeStefano

Email

barbarajdestefano@comcast.net

Subject

McIntyre and ADUs

Address

90 Brewery Ln, apt 106

Message

I have been involved and then watching all of the McIntyre discussions over the many years. Please Do Not vote to proceed with a purchase. There will never be community agreement on design etc.. Also, as to ADUs, please vote to proceed with the suggested changes. Thanks for all of your hard work!

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 19:18

Full Name

charlie griffin

Email

charlesgriffinesq@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Project

Address

210 Hillside Drive

Message

This time listen to your constituents and not the City Manager and cut ties with the McIntyre project. Also suspend the rules and take this matter up after the Public Comment Session so that citizens do not have to hang around half the night to get heard.

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

Submitted on Sat, 04/15/2023 - 23:00

Email

leikay32@gmail.com

Subject

04-17-23 Affordable housing

Message

I work in the medical field, and live locally. Currently, other than where we're at, there is no affordable housing for our family In Portsmouth or the surrounding areas. Should we need to move, it will have to be an hour drive or more (if we are lucky.) This would be a real problem in our family, and considerations would have to be made on weather we can afford working here with rent/travel. We saw Andrew B.'s city council video, and agree with him whole heartily that affordable housing is needed, especially for folks in the medical and educational fields. It may slightly change the aesthetic the town wants, yes; However paving the way to allow more affordable housing is necessary to maintain talent in these fields.

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, 04/16/2023 - 08:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Full Name

John MacIntosh

Email

john.macintosh@comcast.net

Subject

McIntyre Development Going Forward

Address

126 State Street

Message

I have no opinion whether the City should purchase the buildings/lot from the GSA or sell it to a developer but I think overlooked and somehow lost in this long and painful process is the practical function of any future development. If the Kane proposal was doomed because it was seen as too mundane than certainly the so-called 'public' proposal advanced by the Principle group was/is equally doomed by its absurd and nonfunctional extravagance.

For those of us (including businesses) who actually live/work in this neighborhood there may be consensus that the development should include some of the basics, such as:: 1) more parking (not less) and maybe even another parking garage; 2) a full service grocery store (including a pharmacy); 3) a satellite post office. I'm sure there are other amenities that could be incorporated into any future development but let's start, or return to function, rather than form.

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, 04/16/2023 - 16:05

Full Name

Celeste Ledoux

Email

ledouxcc@comcast.net

Subject

ADUs

Address

100 Dennett St

Message

Please simplify and lower the cost of building ADUs. Affordable housing needs to be a priority.

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, 04/16/2023 - 16:20

Full Name

Celeste Ledoux

Email

ledouxcc@comcast.net

Subject

Skate Park

Address

100 Dennett St

Message

I support the updated costs for the skatepark.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 06:34

Full Name

Barbara Soris

Email

bsoris@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Building

Address

14Sheffield Rd

Message

Please DO NOT consider buying and/ or developing the McIntyre Building. Enough time, expertise, and money have gone into this project. It is time to cut our losses and walk away. I say this as a person who supported Re-Visit McIntyre. The city has changed a lot since that summer and we need to acknowledge that. Let a developer buy the McIntyre and trust that the Zoning Boards will do what's best for the city.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 07:44

Full Name

MJ Shoer

Email

mjshoer@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Input

Address

40 TJ Gamester Avenue

Message

I am away on business and unable to attend tonight public comment session. I strongly urge the City Council to disengage from all efforts to acquire and/or develop the McIntyre property. The City of Portsmouth should not get into commercial property development. We have spent enough time, resources, and taxpayer dollars on this. As a 35+ year resident of Portsmouth, I would much prefer to see the City invest in neighborhood infrastructure outside our downtown for a change. I invite any City Councilor to join me while I walk my dog on the failing sidewalks in my neighborhood. They are a hazard and inaccessible to mobility impaired residents. People, including those in wheelchairs who live here are forced to walk to the street because the sidewalks are in such serious disrepair. In fact, the sidewalk snow plow did more damage this winter, collapsing the sidewalks in numerous places. Again, I invite any Councilor to join me for a tour of our crumbling sidewalks. And my neighborhood is fortunate, we have sidewalks, albeit not the beautiful brick variety we continue to invest in for the downtown and now Islington. Also, not to be left out are the numerous dense neighborhoods with no sidewalks at all. Please do not spend anymore money on McIntyre, please invest in the neighborhoods where your taxpayers live. Thank you.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 08:15

Full Name

Patricia Bagley

Email

patbagley@aol.com

Subject

McIntyre

Address

213 Pleasant St

Message

I'm rather depleted when it comes to the McIntyre. This has been a costly exercise in more ways than dollars. We cannot adequately weigh in on this complexity because we aren't privy to all the details. Public comment carries little, if any, weight. I would only ask, suggest, demand that any step forward would prevent us from future dealing with Kane in any way. Further, the process of going through our boards is already corrupted. HDC member Ryan already spoke his opinion publicly (to Kane) at an HDC meeting. He should have to recuse himself on any McIntyre review. Further, the heart of our downtown is viewed differently by city management, developers, and the citizens. This property could reap \$\$\$ for the developer and the city, while demoralizing the community. I have yet to see a model which truly considers this space for its human potential, and not its profit alone, except for the plan offered by Mr. Binnie. Thank you.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 08:16

Full Name

Jim Splaine

Email

jimsplaineportsmouth@gmail.com

Subject

Student Government Day / Internships / Student On The City Council

Address

201 Oriental Gardens, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Message

Monday evening you have a long agenda with significant decisions ahead. This is an excellent week for Student Government Day -- today, and Wednesday -- because of the variety and importance of issues. I would like to take this moment to forward to you my seacoastonline, Portsmouth Herald / Foster's Daily Democrat column of this past weekend about ways to involve and mutually learn from our young citizens. During my times in past years on the City Council, I was involved in about half a dozen Student Government Days, and I would ask the students before voting on each agenda item their opinion. While they and I sometimes disagreed, I always appreciated their fresh viewpoint and valuable insight. Perhaps each of you can do the same. Your Student Councilors will soon be able to run for the City Council and other offices themselves and will run businesses and organizations in coming years -- many in Portsmouth. Any one of them could be our City Manager or City Attorney in ten or twenty years. Let's learn from them, as they learn from us. And one additional thought: Deaglan McEachern has an excellent and touching commentary in the news media about the impact of guns. I urge the City Council to take affirmative steps, some of which he mentions, to address guns and violence in our society. Let's work to keep all citizens safer. Thank You.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY -- A CHANCE FOR MUTUAL LEARNING

This coming week, thanks to initiatives by Portsmouth City Councilor Rich Blalock and the staff led by City Manager Karen Conard, "Student Government Day" returns. Established many years ago by high school teacher Mary Carey Foley, Rich participated in the project as a high school student in 1999.

The announcement explains the target audience for participation is the sophomores who took or are taking American Studies 1 this year. Students will accompany Council members at an official meeting this coming Monday night, then on Wednesday have their own Council meeting at 12:30 p.m. in City Hall. The public is invited.

Student roles include being Mayor, Assistant Mayor, City Councilor, and a variety of staff positions including City Manager, Clerk, Attorney, Fire and Police Chief, Building Inspector, Directors of Finance, Library, Human Resources, Recreation, Planning, Communications, and Department of Public Works. Manager Conard says the School Department may be added in future years.

At their own Council meeting on Wednesday, students will vote on issues of the day, or offer their own initiatives. Reflecting on being a student councilor, Rich Blalock says, "I can only smile when I think of the lessons and experience I gained from Student Government Day, especially as a City Councilor 23 years later." That's what it's all about.

As a future step next year, why not have a goal of 50 student interns working side-by-side with City Councilors, School Board members, Police and Fire Commissioners, and other designated city leaders as well as members of some boards and commissions, like Planning, Zoning, Historic District, and Conservation? The internships could be for one or two month commitments, perhaps one or more days or nights a week, and would certainly help students build their resumes for college applications or post-graduation employment. In time, this could involve a hundred or more students a year in activities of their choice.

Internships are the proverbial "two-way street." They can allow city leaders to learn from the many questions and fresh viewpoints of the young people they work with. Getting to see inside government can lead to lifelong participation. Most of us won't make it, but students involved in this week's Student Government Day will be leaders who touch the 23rd Century on our journey toward Portsmouth's 500th anniversary in 2123.

In 1988, I was chair of the nine-member Portsmouth Charter Commission. I proposed a non-voting high school student for the School Board, selected by students themselves. The idea was that by sitting "at the table," a younger perspective could enhance dialogue. That change was approved by voters, and works well:

"In every year during the month of May an election shall be held in which a senior high school student shall be elected to serve a one (1) year term on the School Board. The term shall commence at the next regular School Board meeting after the election date. The high school student so elected shall have all the rights of a regular School Board member regarding School Board business except the student member may not vote on School Board business and may not attend executive sessions of the School Board."

Why not a similar City Charter provision having a student on our City Council? Too daring? Let's think outside of our comfort zone.

Student Government Day and other initiatives to involve our young citizens is mutual learning at its best. Someone once said, "Everyone is my superior in that I may learn from them."

Today's Quotes: "My experience there, starting young as I did, encouraged me to continue to serve in other important leadership positions throughout my 46 year career as a lawyer." -- Stephen Tober, who in 1977 began a lifelong distinguished career by being elected to the City Council at age 28

"Whether they know it or not, folks in my generation will soon steward Portsmouth into another evolution of its identity." -- Andrew Samonas, who at age 26 ran for City Council two years ago. He now serves on the Planning Board

"Our high schoolers do not need to wait until they can vote to participate in our local government, and we all will benefit if they choose to get involved now." -- City Councilor Kate Cook

Next Time: Memories of U.S. Senator Thomas J. McIntyre.

Variously since 1969, Jim Splaine has been Portsmouth Assistant Mayor, Police Commissioner, and School Board member, as well as N.H. State Senator and Representative. He can be reached at jimsplaineportsmouth@gmail.com

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 08:24

Full Name

Marta Hurgin

Email

marta.hurgin@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Project

Address

111 New Castle Ave

Message

I think it is time to let this project go. Enough time and money has been spent. We need to move on to other issues facing Portsmouth. Hopefully the structure will remain as it fits in much better than some recently built buildings downtown.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 08:56

Full Name

Cheryl McCusker

Email

ccmccusker188@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyer building

Address

188 Gosport Road

Message

I have been extremely frustrated with the council's need to be involved in this mess. Let private builders build and finance it. Thank you,
Cheryl McCusker

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 09:30

Full Name

GEORGIA LONEY

Email

WBPO@COMCAST.NET

Subject

MCINTYRE PROPERTY

Address

296 PLEASANT ST

Message

Please do NOT proceed with a negotiated purchase. Please do what City government should be good at--making sure that a developer will do a good job with the laws and regulations we have in place. This is what developers do, develop property. This is not what City government does. Please stick to the job of governing, not trying to learn how to become a property developer. We have already wasted way too much money on this.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 09:38

Full Name

Maryann Symanowicz

Email

maryannsymanowicz@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre project feedback

Address

604 Elwyn Rd

Message

Dear Portsmouth City Councilors,

I respectfully urge you to NOT pursue the purchase of the McIntyre building. Government should not be in the business of redevelopment. Please let this process play out in the free market. Portsmouth has more pressing needs than spending untold millions of dollars on a project that we do not need nor want.

Best regards,

Maryann Symanowicz

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 Mon, 04/17/2023 - 10:03

Full Name

Patricia Boynton

Email

phboynton34@comcast.net

Subject

McIntyre

Address

1549 ISLINGTON ST

Message

Please do not consider purchasing the McIntyre Building. Enough is enough.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 10:34

Full Name

Carol Bird

Email

cbird5564@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre building

Address

170 Mechanic St

Message

To all City Councilors, I am writing to express my hope that the city backs out of the McIntyre building process completely and lets the GSA sell the building to someone other than the city. As we all know, the failed relationship between Kane and the city has cost the taxpayers millions and it's clear to most of us that he does not have the citizens' best interest at heart, especially when asking for a "guaranteed" income. Any potential developer coming in will have to go through the normal process of approvals and hopefully we will end up with a tax paying property and we can start receiving revenue!

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 13:22

Full Name

Johanna Soris

Email

johannasoris@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre

Address

14 Sheffield Rd

Message

In my view it is time for the City to allow for the McIntyre property to be sold on the open market. There may have been a time in the past years where the city could have bought the building and developed it for a new municipal office, but that time is past. It's a bit nerve wracking to just let go off the city's having a big say in how the space will be used, but I am hopeful that the buyer will have Portsmouth's best interest (as well as \$) as a goal.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 12:25

Full Name

Paul Ringuette

Email

paulnringuette@gmail.com

Subject

McTrosity Meeting

Address

308 Richards Ave

Message

Hello City Council,

Wish I could attend the public session tonight for McTrosity, but I have previous plans. I did though, wanted to take a moment to provide my input.

A few expressions come to mind about McIntyre; Goat Rodeo, Herding Cats, Circular Firing Squad (in the absurdity way, not in the actual way) to name a few. For the love of Pete, please punt on endeavoring any more into the city having anything to do with with boondoggle. I would much rather see the city:

1. Work toward workforce housing imbalances.
2. Prep Portsmouth from Climate Change impacts.
3. Keep our taxes in check as it is getting pretty darn expensive to live here. Not just in taxes but the death of a thousand papercuts in all the life basics that keep costing more.

Please, please, please vote to disengage and stop the bleeding of our tax dollars to this nightmare. Let the private sector figure this out and pay the tab for it, while the city reaps the benefit of new taxable income.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 14:36

Full Name

Elizabeth and Thomas Mooney

Email

elizabethvmooney@hotmail.com

Subject

McIntyre Building

Address

176 Woodlawn Circle

Message

Please do not commit any further local taxpayer money to acquisition of the McIntyre property!

Vote "to advise the GSA that the City will NOT be proceeding with a negotiated sale."

We have many needs that limited taxpayer dollars should go toward, none of which involve subsidizing market rate housing downtown. We need affordable housing and a new police station, just to name two.

Thank you in advance for exercising wisdom and judgement.

Sincerely,

Liz and Tom Mooney

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 14:01

Full Name

Rodney Burdette

Email

rebtrispport@gmail.com

Subject

McIntyre sale

Address

579 Sagamore Ave #46

Message

Please get out of the McIntyre project and stop pouring good money after bad. Let private developers sue each other to death. It's a black hole.

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

Submitted on Mon, 04/17/2023 - 16:05

Full Name

Peter Morin

Email

pgm49@aol.com

Subject

McIntyre / GSA

Address

170 Mechanic Street

Message

Portsmouth City Council:

Please, as a tax paying citizen, I beg our city council & city management to put the entire McIntyre project behind us and let our land use boards do their job with whoever is awarded the site. We, as a city, have enough going on just tending to our normal day to day operation of running the city of Portsmouth.

Respectfully,

Peter Morin

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