

Esthers #1-5

Exhibit I

On Minute 4:12 is the time we discussed giving the \$100,000 to the task force. In the motion it was stated that we will use Federal Cares Act Funds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFmJPBanCIM>

Exhibit 2

**NH Parking Garage to Turn into Outdoor Marketplace to Help Struggling Shops, Restaurants**

The first event on the rooftop of the Foundry Place Parking Garage in Portsmouth is scheduled for July 1, 2020

By Katherine Underwood • Published June 17, 2020 • Updated on June 17, 2020 at 6:12 pm

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/coronavirus/nh-parking-garage-to-turn-into-outdoor-marketplace-to-help-struggling-shops-restaurants/2144752/>

Exhibit 3

June 22, 2020

The First time that I shared my concerns for Funding with city council

Starts at 22:08 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etpOC0EU-IE>

Exhibit 4

Councilor Huda's email to the city council

*After participating on the Task force call yesterday, I have received quite a few calls & comments on how the change of site of the pop up from Foundry garage to the Bridge Street lot is being communicated to the rest of Portsmouth's retail, restaurants and the taxpayers?*

*Seems everyone read in the paper today, "we are going to allow food trucks" at the new site next to the Bridge Street Parking Lot.*

*How can the Task force make this statement without doing the canvassing of the local businesses first? (as I noted in the meeting)*

*Can we please get some concrete communication out ahead of this hitting the paper or use the paper as a communication vehicle by the City also?*

*Next question--What is the City Manager saying about Food Trucks?*

*Is the City Manager "ok" with the co-chair of the Task Force just changing the motion on the site by inserting the "New " name of "Bridge Street" Lot, seems the main focus here is to keep the City funding in place, but without a defined plan?*

*Another question asked by a number of people:*

*The taxpayers just paid for 2 weeks of the City staff working diligently to vet the Roof top pop up & get it moving, what I am hearing is it seems the basic question of liability insurance was not addressed & killed the project. True or False?*

*Next question was -*

*Is the City going down the same path again with this new location? What is the actual plan? Today is July 2nd and we are starting over again using staff time and taxpayer dollars.*

*It seems the Task Force needs to create a check-off list of basic items that have to be in place BEFORE the City staff starts work on a "New" site. Do you agree?*

*I would greatly appreciate it if you could please help me answer these questions.*

*Thank you,*

*Councilor Huda*

**Exhibit 5**

**City Managers response to Councilor Huda.**

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 2, 2020, at 6:30 PM, Petra Huda <pahuda384@gmail.com> wrote:

*Karen Conard <kconard@cityofportsmouth.com>*

*Jul 3, 2020, 3:04 PM*

*to Petra, Rick, me, Cliff, John, Jim, Paige, Deaglan, Peter*

*Good afternoon Councilor Huda, Honorable Mayor and City Council Members –*

*I'll first answer the questions raised by Councilor Huda, and will follow with some helpful talking points and a timeline of activity to date.*

*First, we are not interested in allowing food trucks, or entities from outside the City as part of the pop-up venue proposed for the Bridge Street Lot. Our priority is to work with Portsmouth restaurants who wish to participate.*

*Second, we are working with the pop-up group in furtherance of a solid business and financial plan to support the activities proposed for the Bridge Street Lot. We will not commit any funds to a project unless and until we fully understand and sign off on a responsible, safe and code compliant plan. Of note: we will use City funds to directly pay for infrastructure-related expenses. We will not provide funds to the nonprofit group. The group understands that it is their responsibility to obtain liability insurance.*

*Here is information that may be helpful to share with constituents as questions arise:*

*The Citizen Response Task Force (CRTF) is a committee of citizens selected by the Mayor who are trying to work quickly and nimbly to address their charge to facilitate the reopening of the City. The process is that subcommittees will work on their separate projects - often meeting daily or more - and then report to the Task Force each Wednesday at 2 pm via Zoom to ask the full group to vote on ratifying their recommendations. All of the meetings are open to the public.*

*The CRTF was authorized by the City Council to act, with the authority of the City Manager and was allocated \$100,000 to effect the CRTF recommendations.*

*The City's Public Information Officer monitors all CRTF meetings and subcommittee meetings and provides information to citizens and the media as simultaneously as possible via:*

- The City website (CRTF banner and page with all meeting materials - <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/citizen-response-task-force>)*
- City Manager's Advisory which is distributed to the media directly and to social media*
- Daily interaction with local media (although the media are also able to attend the Zoom meetings and report directly on those public sessions)*

*The CRTF timeline may be helpful in answering questions you receive:*

*May 15: Assistant Mayor Splaine and Councilor McEachern op-ed suggesting a task force to address the urgent need from downtown restaurants, retail and arts businesses who might otherwise go out of business, leaving the downtown with empty storefronts.*

*May 18: City Council unanimously approves the idea. Mayor Becksted sets a deadline for citizens to apply to serve on the Citizen Response Task Force (CRTF).*

*June 1: City Council meeting, where the City Manager presents guidelines for Public Realm Use from City staff engaged in the Public Realm Work Group (DPW, Fire, Police, Building Inspector, Planning, Health and Legal) that includes permit procedures for restaurants to expand their operations into the public realm.*

*June 9: First meeting of the CRTF. Discussion of multiple resident small group ideas.*

*June 10: CRTF meetings hears public safety and access guidelines and assessment of parking inventory/demand. "We understand the dire straits our businesses are in - we need something bold to respond." The group asks restaurants what they want and need. The idea of the Foundry Place Garage rooftop pop-up is brought forward, with DPW starting to explore logistics. A decision is made to form two subcommittees: Downtown Street Use and Foundry Place exploration of a nonprofit arts & culture performance space with restaurant participation.*

June 11: City Emergency Management Team discussion of logistical issues. Foundry subcommittee holds on-site meeting.

June 12: Downtown Street Use subcommittee meeting and full CRTF meeting - plan for Foundry rooftop still in development, many questions to be answered. CRTF co-chairs prepare report to present to the City Council on June 15.

June 14: Downtown Street Use subcommittee meeting, garnering input from restaurants and retail establishments.

June 15: CRTF Co-Chairs report to City Council. Council delegates CRTF project approval authority to City Manager and allocates \$100,000 (to come from CARES Act funds).

June 16: Downtown Street Use subcommittee meeting and creation of informational flyer seeking input from businesses and residents.

June 17: CRTF meeting - report back that 20 restaurants are interested in using streets/parking spaces. DPW seeks plan to mobilize logistics. Foundry "not viewing as a foregone conclusion, lots of due diligence needed."

June 18: Foundry subcommittee meeting on-site with neighborhood. Adds North Sturtevant, architect with JSA Inc. and Eric Reuter, sound engineer, to the team.

June 22: Downtown Street Use subcommittee reviews plans for use of Worth Lot, Market, Congress and Penhallow Streets. Restaurant applications begin in earnest, knowing that space will be available. Need for agreement from adjacent businesses, consider continued curbside pickup zones and access for pedestrians. City Council Meeting, at which the Co-Chairs address neighbor concerns and consider tents/umbrellas.

June 23: DPW placement of barriers on Pleasant Street. Foundry subcommittee meeting in the evening via Zoom with neighborhood.

June 24: CRTF Meeting. Rent relief memo from Steve Marchand discussed, recommended for further review by the Economic Development Commission. Agree that Downtown Street Use Subcommittee will meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 pm and Fridays at 9 am to review



*proposals/plans for space allocation to restaurants. DPW placement of barriers in the Worth Lot.*

*June 29: Foundry subcommittee meeting, assesses budget for infrastructure and staffing. Need entrance/exit plan, electrical inspection, address Health questions on social distancing, FD code review.*

*June 29: Downtown Street Use subcommittee meeting, reviews Penhallow plan for Cure, Ceres Street Bakery; State Street for Fezziwig's; Market Street for Portsmouth Brewery. Working with Mr. Kim's. Worth Lot use by Friendly Toast, Maison Navarre and Cafe Med approved.*

*June 30: Foundry subcommittee discussion of suitability.*

*July 1: CRTF Meeting. Foundry subcommittee presents recommendation on alternative site to resolve numerous concerns arising over use of the garage rooftop, including neighbors' input on sound, parking, etc.*

*I will be happy to answer any questions you may have, both on these particular matters and on issues in general moving forward. It has been and continues to be my pleasure to work with the talented members of the Task Force as we work collectively to reopen Portsmouth.*

*Regards,*

*Karen*