



July 12, 2024

VFW Post #168
POB 1663
Portsmouth, NH 03802

Finance / Purchasing Department
City Hall
1 Junkins Ave
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Subject: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #58-24 For South Meeting House Reuse

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 168 to participate in the open and transparent process to pursue a License Agreement of the South Meeting House. We have made the difficult decision not to submit a proposal. When we first expressed interest in the property, it seemed like a win-win solution to utilize our funds to restore the building on behalf of the City and provide us with a long-term meeting place with the potential for future affordable housing for veterans. Our membership encourages the City Council to choose a meaningful and deserving 501(c)(3) charitable organization to repurpose the South Meeting House, and we look forward to seeing and supporting the winning proposal. It was made abundantly clear that a neighborhood group did not want us in the building or utilizing parking spaces to which they have become accustomed to using and we have no desire for a protracted legal struggle over the property. Finally, if alternate opportunities arise in the future, our organization will welcome the chance to compete for other properties owned by City of Portsmouth. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Quartermaster and former Commander, Josh Denton at (603) 553-1810, as I have deployed to the Middle East in support of ongoing contingency operations through the remainder of the calendar year.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Day", is positioned above the typed name.

Jonathan Day
Commander