

REOPEN PORTSMOUTH 2021 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

MAYORS DIRECTIVE:

THE REOPEN PORTSMOUTH 2021 BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE WILL BE TASKED WITH:

1) DEVELOP A PLAN TO SUPPORT ALL BUSINESSES TO REOPEN OUTSIDE & UTILIZE THE PUBLIC REALM RESOURCES, STREETS & SIDEWALKS WHILE ADHERING TO CITY COUNCIL POLICY #2012-02

2) THIS PLAN WILL INCORPORATE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION OF ALL BUSINESSES ON A BLOCK- BY- BLOCK BASIS.

3) THE GOAL IS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF EVERY BUSINESS TO INCLUDE:

RETAIL

RESTAURANT

SERVICES

SMALL BUSINESSES- VARIOUS NOT INCLUDED ABOVE

NON-PROFITS

(ARTS & CULTURE WILL BE NEW BRC PER THE MAYOR)

SUGGESTED PROCESS:

TIMELINE A GIVEN- MARCH 1ST- DEPENDING ON WEATHER.

PHASE 1

BRAIN-STORMERS/COLLABORATORS - (CORE MEMBERS)

THE CHAMBER, REPRESENTATIVES FROM RETAIL, NON-PROFITS, RESTAURANTS, SERVICE INDUSTRIES. FOCUS COMPLETELY ON THE DIRECTIVE.

DECIDE ON THE NUMBER OF FOCUS SESSIONS NEEDED

GOAL IS TO DEVELOP THE "BEST" PLAN & "PLAN B"

PHASE 2

BRING IN CITY STAFF TO EVALUATE FINAL PLAN FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE:

POLICE, FIRE, HEALTH, BUILDING INSPECTION, PUBLIC WORKS, PARKING, PLANNING

EVALUATE WHAT WILL WORK & WHAT WILL NOT FROM EACH PERSPECTIVE.

REFINE & ADJUST, RESTATE FINAL PLAN.

(CITY ROLE IS TO STEP UP >> IMPLEMENT>>> STEP BACK- (REFINE IF NEEDED)

PHASE 3

MOVE FORWARD WITH THE "BEST" PLAN & A "PLAN B"-

EVALUATE AGAINST THE LATEST HEALTH SITUATION AT THE TIME.

(MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IF NEEDED TO KEEP HEALTH OF ALL AS FIRST FOCUS)

PRESENT TO CITY COUNCIL

SOME FACTORS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED: (POSSIBLE-THE "HOW TO'S")

>HOW THE DOES BRC GIVE ALL BUSINESSES THE OPPORTUNITY & OPTION TO PARTICIPATE, AS THE RESULTING OUTDOOR PLAN OR CONFIGURATION WILL ENCOMPASS EVERYONE'S FULL "SEASON" THIS YEAR.

>CAN THE BRC UTILIZE THE CITY RESOURCES OF NANCY CARMER & THE CHAMBER IN COLLABORATION?

>BECAUSE EACH BLOCK COULD BE A DIFFERENT COMBINATION OF PARTICIPANTS:

CREATE A GRID, FILL IN PARTICIPANTS, CONTACT EACH FOR PARTICIPATION &

SOLICIT INPUT ON: WHAT WORKED BEST FOR THEIR BUSINESS IN PRIOR YEAR>>>NEEDS THIS YEAR?

>THE BRC NEEDS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL TO BE ABLE TO SAY WE CONTACTED & ASKED

THE SAME QUESTIONS OF EVERYONE & FOSTERED AN ENVIRONMENT OF COLLABORATION, EVERY ONE HAD THE OPTION & A VOICE, NO STATEMENTS LIKE " I HAD NO IDEA THIS WAS HAPPENING".

>HOW CAN WE COMMUNICATE TO THE MOST BUSINESSES FOR INPUT? (SUGGESTION FOR DISCUSSION)

UTILIZING THE RESOURCES OF NANCY CARMER (CITY) & THE CHAMBER- (E-MAIL LISTS):

- 1) INITIAL CONTACT BY EMAIL-WHERE POSSIBLE
- 2) IF NO RESPONSE 2ND EMAIL OR BRIEF PHONE CALL?
- 3) IF STILL NO RESPONSE - VISIT IN PERSON?

>LOG RESPONSES, AFTER 3 ATTEMPTS WITH NO LOGGED RESPONSE, BRC CAN VERIFY THAT THE BUSINESS HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FEEDBACK.
(BRC WILL HAVE TO DECIDE IF FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED OR TO MOVE FORWARD & ASSUME NOT INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATION)

>NARROW SCOPE OF PARTICIPANT AREA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BY STARTING WITH PRIOR YEAR PARTICIPANTS AND REVIEWING LOGGED RESPONSES.

WHAT WORKED --WHAT DID NOT?

*15 MINUTE PARKING FOR PICK UPS?

*CLOSING OR RE-ROUTING STREETS TO ALLOW FOR MORE DINING ACCESSIBLE SPACE?

*HOW TRAFFIC WAS AFFECTED AT THE OTHER BUSINESSES WHEN SIDEWALK & STREET SPACE WAS CHANGED?

*THE EFFECT ON RETAIL BUSINESS WHEN A RESTAURANT HAD THE SIDEWALK OCCUPIED BY TABLES BUT WAS CLOSED DURING THE DAY?

*THE EFFECT OF THE PUBLIC WHERE THERE WERE SIDEWALK CLOSURES OR SIDEWALKS WERE BEING USED AS A PATHWAY TO SERVICE DINING CUSTOMERS AS OTHERS WAITED & OTHERS WERE TRYING TO PASS THRU & WERE ARRIVING FOR FOOD PICK UP ?

*ADDRESS THE "UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE" OR IMBALANCE IN ESTABLISHED COMPETITION BY THE CITY ALLOWING FOR "FREE PUBLIC SPACE" TO BUSINESSES THAT DID NOT PREVIOUSLY HAVE THAT ACCESS.

*ADDRESS THE AWKWARDNESS OF RETAIL CUSTOMERS HAVING TO WALK THRU DINERS TO GET TO RETAIL BUSINESSES?

*REQUEST CITY TO PROVIDE PLANNED STREET CLOSURES FOR ROAD & BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TO ALLOW AREA TO ADJUST FOR DETOURS & ADJUSTED TRAFFIC PATTERNS

*ACCESS TO PARKING FOR ADA

*AVAILABILITY OF LONGER TERM PARKING FOR SERVICES, I.E. DOCTORS, DENTISTS, GROCERY LAWYERS APPTS. LONGER THAN 1 HR. (TO ADDRESS ELDERLY & LIMITED MOBILITY CLIENTS)

*COORDINATE THE INDIVIDUAL & CHAMBER MARKETING & INNOVATION EFFORTS TO BENEFIT ALL BUSINESSES.

*WHAT EFFECT WILL A NEW CONFIGURATION OF STREETS/SIDEWALKS HAVE ON DELIVERIES & TRASH PICK UP?