

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: January 19, 2023 (after 9:00 a.m.) – January 23, 2023 (before 5:00 p.m.)

January 23, 2023 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Thu, 01/19/2023 - 10:26

Full Name

Rodrigo Altamar

Email

raltamar@yahoo.com

Subject

Please let the outdoor seating remain

Address

227 Grove Rd

Rye, New Hampshire. 03870

Message

To whom it may concern,

Please consider leaving the outdoor seating/dining as it is in Portsmouth. There's no experience quite like in on the seacoast, especially with the feel of Spring/Summer/Fall approaching. The city feels more lovely and regal this way.

Warm regards,

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, 01/19/2023 - 10:48

Full Name

Tuya Elwy

Email

tuya.elizabeth@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

1306 white cedar boulevard

Message

I am writing in support of outdoor dining. People having a fresh outdoor space to enjoy food and drinks (with their dogs if they want) is important for the town. Both tourists and locals appreciate being able to enjoy the nicer weather New England has to offer. It means a lot to local businesses and their employees as well (so they can make more money to continue to be able to live in an ever increasingly expensive town). 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 Thu, 01/19/2023 - 10:48

Full Name

Joel St.Jean

Email

hellstjean@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear City Council,

Years ago I had the privilege of going to university in Montreal. A city of wild architecture and a culinary scene like no other. Winters there bite - the wind freezes your skin in seconds. Even the most hardcore skiers and lovers of winter sports long for summer by the end of a Montreal winter.

As soon as the metres of snow start melting, you begin to see the edges and then the floors of the terrasses that line both historic and modern pedestrian ways. Once enough space is available, establishments are quick to set up tables and chairs outside despite the varying temperatures. When the sun hits that terrasse you can bet your bottom dollar every seat will be packed. The best part of the terrasse is it becomes the focal congregation point for the neighborhood. In winter the dozens of neighborhood hockey arenas are the terrasses of the summer months. It's a place to enjoy the culture, food, and drink, to socialize, to be a part of what the city has to offer, and to just be.

Now the privilege of growing up in Portsmouth has allowed me the opportunity to see this city grow and organize. We have the ability to be a city where our culture, food, drink, and social dynamics flourish and evolve.

Please allow our citizens and those we welcome to Portsmouth to have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the terrasse. Businesses, restaurants, and establishments should all be able to have outdoor space. I can promise you it will bring happiness, continued financial growth, and the ability to better Portsmouth for generations to come. Portsmouth has the potential to not only maintain its charm as a historic coastal city, but offer outdoor dining and amenities to usher it into a new era.

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, 01/19/2023 - 10:50

Full Name

Jack Baird

Email

jackbaird83@yahoo.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

1306 white cedar boulevard

Message

I support continuing to allow outdoor dining downtown 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, 01/19/2023 - 11:46

Full Name

Mallory Strange

Email

mallory.strange@comcast.net

Subject

Keep Outdoor Dining

Address

40 Morrison Lane

Dover, New Hampshire. 03820

Message

This has been such a nice addition to the dining experience in Portsmouth- year round! I urge you to consider keeping this as a permanent benefit and option for diners

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, 01/19/2023 - 13:30

Full Name

Nick

Email

nickritzo163@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Message

Please consider making outdoor dining a permanent option for the city of Portsmouth, as it aids our integral restaurant business and shows off how fantastic our city can be

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, 01/19/2023 - 15:16

Full Name

Samuel Berube

Email

sbear7@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

3224 s sherbourne dr
Los Angeles, California. 90034

Message

outdoor dining for our city council by 1/22... It's so important for our local businesses at home like Durbar Square and others.

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, 01/19/2023 - 17:57

Full Name

Michaela Sulley

Email

michaela.sulley@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

61 Sheffield Rd

Message

Outdoor dining should continue to be allowed for Portsmouth restaurants. This is an important part of the growing infrastructure and allows for improved accessibility.

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, 01/20/2023 - 07:19

Full Name

Oliver Chag

Email

oliver.H.Chag@gmail.com

Subject

Please Extend Outdoor Dining in Portsmouth

Address

419 Lincoln Ave

Message

Please continue the permit approval for outdoor dining in Portsmouth, as this recent community benefit has greatly improved the overall dining experience in the city. I hope you take this message into consideration. Thanks, and I look forward to reviewing your decision

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, 01/20/2023 - 12:25

Full Name

Janet C Marx

Email

janetcm Marx@mac.com

Subject

What's the lights on the Memorial bridge mean

Address

73 Gates St
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I would like to see, as part of the city's website, an ongoing list of what the colors on the Memorial Bridge stand for. Especially if there may be days where other people and businesses sign up for the lighting, I would like to know who they are. I also was somewhat distressed to hear that the rainbow lights might be used by others. I thought the display on Pride Week was phenomenal and would hate to see it used elsewhere! Other favorites like the blue and yellow for the Ukrainian war were also terrific. I wonder, though, whether other people know that that was what the lights stood for. How about a place on the City website where we could go and look it up?

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, 01/20/2023 - 17:58

Full Name

Christine McCarron

Email

christineimccarron@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor seating

Address

35 Anne Avenue apartment #6

Message

Keep outdoor seating!

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, 01/20/2023 - 18:50

Full Name

Kyle Harrison

Email

kydobie@yahoo.com

Subject

Outdoor searing

Address

160 FW Hartford Drive

Message

Outdoor dining has been a great part of 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 Fri, 01/20/2023 - 19:14

Full Name

Joseph Byron

Email

jbyron1776@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor seating

Address

1776 Congress street

Message

Hello Portsmouth city council. Could we all return to civility and allow outdoor seating at restaurants in our city? Over the past few years we have dealt with enough authoritarian policies that have caused local businesses to suffer and close. We should instead rally around our local establishments and support them in any way we can. Please consider that your decision in this manner has a profound impact on the success of current and future small business in this 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 Sat, 01/21/2023 - 02:31

Full Name

Ethan Palmer

Email

ethanpalmer41@yahoo.com

Subject

Continue outside dining

Address

33 saint Thomas

Dover, New Hampshire. 03820

Message

I just like to please give my opinion as to the security of our continued use of outside spaces in our city. I Work in the restaurant, business in

Portsmouth The outside dining area not only offers added seats and revenue to local business , but it also supports hundreds of jobs both inside and outside the restaurants involved.

I feel would be a real tragedy to take away the benefit of these outdoor spaces, and I believe most people who live in town I actually prefer to be able to choose whether they sit in or outside in the fall and spring and summer months. I also feel if you consider the state of our economy we have an obligation to come together and promote growth.

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, 01/21/2023 - 18:48

Full Name

Kendall Berton

Email

kcberton@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

18 Hillcrest Dr

Message

As a native of Portsmouth, nothing makes me happier to have outdoor dining for our residents and visitors in the summer. We are so lucky to have amazing weather and an amazing climate. We should utilize our resources that benefit local business and truly represent our fantastic city. Not only that, what outdoor dining does for our local economy is frankly incalculable. Not only do local businesses benefit from more seating, but also it is a beautiful advertisement for these businesses and our city. Imagine being a visitor to our city for the first time, and you see people enjoying a glass of wine on Commercial Alley, or toasting a beer outdoors at Dwyer's or The Press Room. Or you walk by a group of people celebrating outside of Raleigh next to the Memorial Bridge. Those picturesque moments are lifetime memories for locals and visitors. Being able to observe people enjoy the amazing dining and service our city has to offer will only keep Portsmouth a city where folks are out and about and spending money locally.

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, 01/21/2023 - 19:13

Full Name

Maxson Ward

Email

maxgbward@gmail.com

Subject

Save outdoor dining

Address

18 Hillcrest Dr Apt 3

Message

Every decision has two layers: the calculation between positive and negative short and long term outcomes, and the emotional appeal. Restaurants benefit financially from the foot traffic and added square footage, but in the midst of a staff shortage the added demand puts stress on the servers. However, more revenue means restaurants can afford to raise wages, should they choose, which should entice more applicants. I am not in the service industry, I only know what I hear from friends who work in that realm, so I can't speak with certainty about the real world consequences. I can only infer that a rising tide raises all ships. The street parking situation and traffic is also strained by outdoor dining, but parking on Market Street was hard to come by before, and will be still. The worst case scenario is more cars funnel into the largely vacant parking garages; another revenue stream for the city.

The emotional appeal is the undeniably lively atmosphere that outdoor dining creates. The streets are more full and colorful, the venues more inviting. Patrons can enjoy the fresh air and people watching, and those on foot can get a preview of the myriad dining experiences. Aesthetically, I can't think of a single downside - although opinions about the appeal of it may differ between generations. If I were to make a decision based on generational opinions, though, I would side with the younger ones To keep the city modern, and evolving.

Outdoor dining satisfies both layers of the decision: the logical and the emotional. There's really nothing more to say.

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, 01/21/2023 - 20:45

Full Name

Jude Blake

Email

jude@judeblake.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

18 Congress St. #503

Message

Dear City Council,

I am very supportive of Councilor Bagley's proposal. Portsmouth implemented outdoor dining quickly as a response to the pandemic when indoor dining was restricted and considered unsafe. It was hurried and had few protocols. That time has passed. Our town deserves to be beautiful and accommodating for both residents and tourists alike. The lack of standards, tying up traffic and presumably little regard for residents who live in the downtown was fine two years ago. But time has come for a more well thought through plan. How has the cost and inconvenience to taxpayers/residents benefited our businesses? There has been little facts delivered on that front. I live in Market Square and the traffic tie ups and ugly spaces are concerning to me. Please put together a plan that beautifies our city and provides benefits for all.

Sincerely,

Jude Blake

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, 01/21/2023 - 21:51

Full Name

Carmela Crawz

Email

carmelarcrawford@aol.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

433 Lincoln Ave

Message

I would like to see outdoor dining continued. I would love to see Market Square and approaching street turned into a walking mall from 9-8 pm all summer--- like Market Square day

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, 01/22/2023 - 08:15

Full Name

Michael Wisniewski

Email

mbw015@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

46 dennett street

Message

I want to support outdoor dining and allow for sidewalk and in Street dining in Portsmouth. It's essential for theses businesses to survive.

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, 01/22/2023 - 08:18

Full Name

Kelsey Glencross

Email

kmglenccross@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

673 South Street

Message

Hello, I am contacting you to voice my support of outdoor dining and my concern for the new proposal which would be leaving certain restaurants out of having that opportunity. I have really enjoyed having restaurants like Dwyers and The Goat be able to accommodate more people with their outdoor sections and not just have the decks be a place where we can enjoy food outdoors.

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, 01/22/2023 - 08:55

Full Name

Paula Werme, Esq. (retired)

Email

powerme@comcast.net

Subject

Downtown parking around Parrot Ave. - I more than paid for that spot.

Address

523 Mason Rd.

Milford, New Hampshire. 03055.

Message

Ref the front page article on Jan 22 in the Portsmouth Herald about parking on Parrot Ave. I was the "nice lady from Delaware" referenced in the article. What I kept to myself speaking with the locals is that I was investigating the true source of danger to NH children on Parrot Ave - namely the Family Court a short trot from the middle school. Based on personal knowledge, I spent two years studying the dynamics of interpersonal violence, building out my van to live in from Delaware, and upon completion, I immediately headed to NH - and Parrot Ave. - to audit the family division's treatment of abused children and battered women in the context of custody proceedings, which is not kind at all. I did all of this on my dime. It wasn't cheap. Let's just say the choice of court to audit first was not without thought. It took me about three days to figure it out - the exact statutory wording the judges are using to batter women and endanger children. The rest of the time was simply collecting sufficient data to establish a consistent pattern. There are numerous bills in Child and Family Law this year based on that research I did over the summer while parked on Parrot Ave. to protect women and children. Aside from many millions of dollars of taxpayer money that can potentially be saved in court budgets if those bills pass, and the protection of women and children from years of interpersonal violence, I spent money in Portsmouth and surrounding areas - groceries, laundry, restaurants, dog sitters, and lots and lots of gas. It was not a cheap audit, by any stretch. Toward the end of the audit, I registered to vote in NH, got my NH driver's license, and got the Delaware plate changed to a NH plate. I'm not paying property taxes in NH, but I am a NH taxpayer. Rather than complain about the cost of garbage in the park are around the ball field, I would think a better solution would be to let van people use the local dump, perhaps on a cash basis. The biggest problem I found with van life - little opportunity for recycling. The garbage collection person for the city told me that they don't actually recycle the recycling bins because too many folks throw their dog droppings in the bins. That is a problem of the locals mostly.

In addition, if Parrot Ave is closed to van dwellers, it would helpful if the city council identify areas of the city where it doesn't impact the residential population. If overnight parking was banned, I'd still be on Parrot Ave before the crack of dawn- probably in front of the Middle School for the staggered arrival of students - so I could attend my business in the court for the day.. Parking places go fast in the morning and don't open up until the end of the day. The real problem is the day workers from downtown who choose to hoof it to their jobs to save on parking. Believe me, when I was a practicing attorney, finding parking in time for a hearing was a problem.

In addition, the Herald article cited that the police had few problems with these vans parked. I always felt safe there, even if I made a middle-of-the-night hike to the porta-potties by the dog park.

If and when the matter comes up before the city council, I would like my comments to be part of the record.

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, 01/22/2023 - 12:29

Full Name

Debbie Basile-Katsanos

Email

gemqueen27@aol.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

2008 White Cedar Blvd

Message

I would prefer to see the end of outdoor dining. It takes up precious parking. Not to mention it is not a good look. It looks tacky. Besides how can these people be eating while cars are idling next to them. It is cumbersome. I have stopped patronizing the businesses downtown while the outdoor dining is in effect.

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, 01/22/2023 - 20:22

Full Name

Melissa Hathaway

Email

3bsandmhathaway@comcast.net

Subject

Sherburne School Project

Address

700 Colonial dr

Message

After watching last weeks council meeting I have some concerns for the proposed project. I'm wondering is there a date where there will be a neighborhood meeting?

Some points I am concerned about..

The amount of units seems excessive

The traffic during and after construction.. we have one way in and one way out! Will the back gate be open?

Impact on NFS there was discussion about three-bedroom units that means families to me with some of these residents having children that will be impacting the school. The number of larger units would have to be representative of what the school can handle.

Not against it just the size honestly.

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, 01/23/2023 - 10:42

Full Name

Sarah Gallichant

Email

sdw32@comcast.net

Subject

Outdoor Seating

Address

179 Hillside Dr

Message

Hi there, it has come to my attention that the town is prepared to take away The Goat's and Jumpin' Jay's outdoor seating in the warmer months, but will allow all other establishment's outdoor patios. It does not seem fair not only to the two business this is effecting, but the MANY patrons that frequent both places and enjoy utilizing their outdoor spaces (such as myself and my family) solely due to their location.

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, 01/23/2023 - 15:17

Full Name

Emily Weidman

Email

emily.weidman@yahoo.com

Subject

Outdoor seating

Address

490 Islington Street

Message

I would be devastated to see restaurants loose their outdoor seating this summer. It did so much for the city, and for all of the restaurant employees. Our outdoor seating was such a draw for tourists, and the extra seats helped out our staff incredibly to earn back money from lockdown.

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

Submitted by: Anonymous

Tony Bouzakine

Email

tony.bouzakine@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor seating

Address

23 Harrison Ave

Message

Please consider extending the outdoor seating in downtown Portsmouth. It's been great to have walking and seating areas outside.

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, 01/23/2023 - 15:48

Full Name

Ken Goldman

Email

kgoldman@comcast.net

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

271 Islington Street

Message

I fully support the plan for outdoor dining proposed by Councilors Bagley and Cook.

Ken Goldman

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, 01/23/2023 - 16:00

Full Name

Cora Mclean

Email

coramclean3@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

10 Merrimac St

Message

I would love to see outdoor dining continue in 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, 01/23/2023 - 16:20

Full Name

Anne Weidman

Email

aweidman@jsainc.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

44 LOOKOUT LN

Message

In June of 2020, twenty-five design professionals banded together pro-bono as the Portsmouth Design Professionals Alliance. These design professionals helped Portsmouth imagine itself as a city of outdoor dining. What began then has evolved into a program that businesses, residents and visitors love. Over time dining spaces have become more attractive and more accessible.

Evolution of design is a good thing. As new regulations are put into place, we believe that the focus should continue to swing to pedestrians and the pedestrian experience. The loss of parking is easily shifted to the garages. We all know that cars don't shop and dine, people do.

As the city moves into master planning Market Square, we hope that the priority is expanding sidewalks to accommodate all businesses, not only those in the hospitality business. Perhaps short-term accommodations could be considered to accommodate businesses while we move into master-planning mode. And then allow that rethinking of Market Square to be planned around the pedestrian experience.

Anne Weidman, Spokesperson, Portsmouth Design Professionals Alliance

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, 01/23/2023 - 16:26

Full Name

Maeve Sullivan

Email

maeve@thedriftcollective.com

Subject

Outdoor dining

Address

423 Court St apt 6.

Message

I think the outdoor dining program is one of the best things to happen to our city! I live and manage a business downtown. The energy in the city is amazing in warmer months now that outdoor dining has improved the experience of living downtown. Portsmouth is home to so many incredible restaurants and hard working service industry members that thrive in the summer now because of outdoor dining. New England winters are long and bleak - our city's residences deserve outdoor dining in warmer months and our businesses that make this place so special deserve the opportunity to succeed in the summer with the help of outdoor dining. It would be a major shame to see this taken away from 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, 01/23/2023 - 17:06

Full Name

Carson Duggan

Email

cdduggan12@gmail.com

Subject

Outdoor Dining

Address

35 Hodgdon Way

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I am writing in support of continuing outdoor dining in Portsmouth. As someone who moved to Portsmouth from Calgary, Alberta, Canada over 1.5 years ago I feel I have a fresh outlook on the impact that it offers this city. In my short time being a resident in Portsmouth, it is

evident how special it is. Every time I mention I live in Portsmouth the resounding positive comments continue to blow me away. Even though there is no shortage of restaurants in Portsmouth, there is still a shortage of seating at many places (especially during peak seasons). My roommates, also moved from Canada, and I have had many groups of visitors during our short time and we are so proud to show off Portsmouth. Outdoor dining has given us confidence that regardless of time of year, day, or time, we will have somewhere to go enjoy each other's company. Without outdoor dining, I am confident this would not be the case. The outdoor dining options add to what Portsmouth has to offer and gives it a different element. The 'Decks' are great but there are so many incredible options off the beaten path that make this place really feel like home. I can't tell you the number of times my roommates and I find ourselves enjoying an afternoon or post-work hangout at one of the pop up outdoor dining spots (a lot because many are dog-friendly which is also a huge bonus!). It just adds another layer to an already great place while also giving people more options on where to go, especially with larger parties.

I am so proud to be from western Canada, one of the most beautiful places in the world, but Portsmouth has truly captivated me and I want nothing more than to continue to show 'out-of-towners' how special it is and the outdoor dining options play a MAJOR role in that.

Thank you for your time and I would be more than happy to answer further questions or have more dialogue on the issue.

-Carson Duggan

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

Yes