

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: June 13, 2024 (after 9:00 a.m.) – June 17, 2024 (before 5:00 p.m.)

June 17, 2024 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

Submitted on Thu, 06/13/2024 - 17:21

First Name

Jacob

Last Name

Horwath

Email

jehorwath@gmail.com

Address

282 Second Crown Point Road
Barrington, New Hampshire. 03825

Message

Dear Portsmouth,

Not to go on an old man rant, but I've lived here for 30+ years, and boy is it an abysmal experience to drive on the Bypass/Traffic Circle in the year 2024. To drive anywhere in Portsmouth really, but that area is a special kind of nightmare.

Did anyone possibly think that adding some hundreds of new apartments at the intersection of Borthwick without changing the traffic pattern or lights might just cause problems? It doesn't seem like anyone did. It is terrible. I used to work down Rt. 1 but I switched jobs recently to drive an extra 20 minutes. It's a better experience than dealing with the circle for even a single moment.

Portsmouth used to have some character, and now it's effectively becoming 4 and 5 over 1s. No one seems to plan for traffic, or anything else as far as I can tell. Suddenly there's an influx of money--but no one to say "no" or think about the future impact. You keep taking in rich people from out of state and letting Chinburg do whatever he pleases with construction.

The least you could do is fix the traffic signals so they line up and there aren't people stopped in the intersection all day long.

That's not going to fix the gentrification, though. Remember when Portsmouth had a whale mural downtown? The Elvis Room? Bullmoose? You know, some culture? You destroyed it for apartments. It's all becoming 4 and 5 over 1s. Culture removed, money gained.

We try to avoid Portsmouth as much as we can. It's no longer an enjoyable experience to go anywhere near the city. I am sure I am not the only one.

Sincerely,

Jacob Horwath

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, 06/14/2024 - 17:41

First Name

BRIAN

Last Name

BIRNER

Email

brianbirner@gmail.com

Address

77 State Street

Message

Portsmouth church solar panels plan cut back by historic commission. This is so inappropriate! It's time for the Historic Commission NOT to be involved with solar panels.

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, 06/16/2024 - 11:30

First Name

Marta

Last Name

Hurgin

Email

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Address

111 New Castle Avenue

Message

Hello. I was very dismayed to see Portsmouth's geese removal initiative on the front page of the Union Leader this Sunday. I was glad for some of the comments of those who were visiting Portsmouth who understood the importance of having wildlife in their natural habitat and that you could simply enjoy your day along with the geese. I was not happy to see the position of City of the Portsmouth to use blank rounds, hunting dogs and lasers to disturb the geese. I mean, come on? We have nothing better to do with our time and money? I get it, they poop. I walk my dogs through Strawberry Banke or by the middle school ever day, it is kind of gross for about 10 seconds and then I move on with a day. Your response to those people who complain about geese, who are wild animals trying to survive in a place where we have taken almost all of their habitat, should be to get a life. I seriously hope the city rethinks using laser to disrupt the geese who are currently trying to raise their newly born offspring. Portsmouth wants to be known as a forward-thinking, welcoming, green city and instead we chase geese with dogs and fight against solar panels. Very disappointing to see. Visitors coming to Portsmouth can enjoy the sights and sounds of gas powered leaf blowers, blank rounds, and wild birds running for their lives. Lovely.

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, 06/16/2024 - 18:06

First Name

Ken

Last Name

Goldman

Email

kengoldman@gmail.com

Address

271 Islington Street

Message

Dear City Councilors,

On Saturday, June 15th, while walking down Junkins Avenue on my way to the Farmers' Market, I stopped next to South Mill Pond to take some photos of the activity as seen from below. I realized when I took this photo that, if the city decides to go ahead with the proposed extension of the Police Headquarters, this photo would not have been possible. Please do not build the new/extended police facility in a place that will block this view. As I've grown to know Portsmouth, I've learned how important the visible integrity of the city is to the residents. I too appreciate maintaining the look and feel of the city to the greatest extent possible, and, frankly feel that this is will be an ugly blight on this area.

While I don't question the need to improve the police facilities, I do question this location, and the size of the structure. As a layman this has been a hard nut to crack and understand. I keep hearing contradictory information regarding problems at the existing facility, and what is needed for the new facility.

Please, please, continue to consider carefully what is required, and where to put the building or extension.

Thank you,

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, 06/17/2024 - 11:34

First Name

Jim

Last Name

Splaine

Email

jimsplaineportsmouthnh@gmail.com

Address

201 Oriental Gardens

Message

Monday, June 17, 2024

To The Portsmouth City Council -

I add my support to that of others who urge you to take the final step in the authorization of body cams for our law enforcement personnel. The Portsmouth Police Commission and the department have worked hard in recent months to make sure that the proposal before you is a can-do approach to bringing greater transparency.

I have been a long-time supporter of body and cruiser cameras for Portsmouth. It was in early 2014 that I first proposed the concept for our community, and while it has taken too long to get to this point, we are there. And we are there because of the hard work of staff and previous Police Commissions, including the one I was on with Commissioners Joe Onosko, Arthur Hilson, and Stefany Shaheen.

At that time we held a year-long discussion study with citizens and members of the police department, looking at the pros and cons of body cams. It seemed clear to me that one of the best reasons for body cams would be that our law enforcement personnel will be protected by having their own video representation of what occurs in the event of an incident. Since nearly everyone has cameras nowadays, the police will have one too.

In addition, body cams will be able to provide training of "best-practices" with real-time video representations of how to bring the highest levels of service to our citizenry. Around the nation there are examples of police doing great work that without the body cam evidence would have gone unnoticed. That can result in even greater respect by the public for the work our officers do in the field.

I would like to especially note the contributions to the cause by Police Commissioner Buzz Scherr and Police Chief Mark Newport. I'm sure they will with all other department personnel to make Portsmouth's experience with body cams work well and effectively.

I have spoken and written about this issue numerous times during the past decade, and below is a link to one [Seacoastonline.com](#) commentary addressing other aspects of the value of body cams.

Thank You

,Jim Splaine

Former Police Commissioner

Link to commentary:

Splaine: Is Portsmouth, NH ready for police body cams? ([seacoastonline.com](#))

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