
City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Tue 10/6/2026 2:29 PM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Tue, 10/06/2026 14:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Brenda

Last Name

Riddell

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Request to Reconsider Downtown Workforce Parking Eligibility

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 01969

Message

Regarding the recent changes to the Downtown Workforce Parking Program, I would like to respectfully request that you reconsider the industry-based restrictions on eligibility that will take effect March 1.

My design firm, Graphic Details, Inc., has been located in downtown Portsmouth since 1999. Under the new eligibility requirements, our business type falls outside the program, even though our employees are part of the downtown workforce and rely on the \$3-per-day parking rate at the Foundry Garage.

Losing this benefit would mean that each of our employees could face approximately \$300 per month in parking costs. That is a significant and, for many employees, unsustainable expense. I imagine our situation is shared by employees of other downtown businesses that will also lose eligibility under the new guidelines.

I understand that the City will be evaluating the program and adapting it as more data becomes available over the coming months. I respectfully ask that you keep this concern in mind as you evaluate the program, and consider whether eligibility can continue to be based on working downtown rather than on the industry of the employer.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on this important issue. I hope the City will find a way to ensure that all downtown employees have equitable access to affordable workforce parking.

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

Yes

{Empty}

*subject Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Thu 10/8/2026 12:09 PM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Thu, 10/08/2026 12:09

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Dan

Last Name

Curran

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Objection to the October 1, 2026 changes to the Downtown Workforce Parking Program (DWPP)

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

October 8, 2026

The Honorable Deaglan McEachern
Mayor, City of Portsmouth
City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: Objection to the October 1, 2026 changes to the Downtown Workforce Parking Program (DWPP)
Dear Mayor McEachern:

I am writing on behalf of Amwins Program Underwriters, Inc., a downtown Portsmouth employer, to respectfully but firmly object to the recent changes to the Downtown Workforce Parking Program. As

we read the revised program, eligibility is now limited to workers in the restaurant, retail, hospitality, and personal service industries, with clerical, customer service, administrative, and support staff of previously participating businesses retained only until March 1, 2027. These changes will materially increase the cost of parking for our team, and we ask the City to reconsider.

Amwins Program Underwriters is an active participant in the downtown economy. About 40 of our employees come downtown on business days, and they patronize Portsmouth's shops, restaurants, and services as part of their routine. They also park in the Foundry Place Garage during standard weekday business hours, when demand is lower than during evenings and weekends, rather than competing with visitors for on-street and peak-time spaces. Several times each month we also bring professionals and trading partners to town, who stay in downtown hotels, dine in local restaurants, and shop along the way. When we moved our office from Pease Tradeport to downtown Portsmouth, we weighed the added cost of parking for our workforce carefully. The DWPP was a meaningful factor in that decision, because it helped offset that cost for our people. We made a significant investment in a downtown location in reliance on that program, and changing its terms after the fact undermines the basis on which we made that choice.

The financial impact is substantial. Under the rates published in the City's flyer, a DWPP participant pays \$3 per business day, or roughly \$78 per month at the 26-sticker maximum. The alternative for a nonresident employee is a monthly garage pass at \$300. That is a difference of more than \$220 per employee per month, or over \$2,600 per employee per year. Across our downtown team, that represents an almost six-figure annual cost. Either our New Hampshire employees absorb that cost, or Amwins Program Underwriters subsidizes it, or we risk losing good people. None of those outcomes is a good one for a business that has chosen to invest in Portsmouth.

We also have a concern about fairness. We understand and support the City's interest in helping workers in service industries, who are the backbone of downtown. But a program defined by industry rather than by the simple fact of working downtown leaves our employees paying nearly four times as much to park as the person working next door. Our team faces the same commute and the same cost of coming downtown each day, yet parks during weekday business hours, when demand is lower than the evening and weekend peaks. The March 1, 2027 transition date does not resolve this; it only postpones it.

We respectfully ask the City to take two steps. First, allow all workers of businesses that previously participated in the DWPP to remain eligible, regardless of job role or category. Second, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this further and share our perspective as a downtown employer. I would also be glad to help bring other downtown employers into that conversation.

Amwins Program Underwriters values its place in the Portsmouth community, and we want to be a constructive partner in finding a solution that works for the City and for the businesses that choose to be here. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dan Curran
Executive Vice President
Amwins Program Underwriters, Inc.
603-334-3027


cc: Members of the Portsmouth City Council

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

Yes

{Empty}

*subject Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Fri 10/9/2026 11:53 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Fri, 10/09/2026 11:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Chris

Last Name

Dwyer

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

non-working meters

Address

[REDACTED]

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

I never mind paying for parking --or even paying parking tickets--but I have found the number of non-working meters frustrating. Within the last 24 hour period, I encountered three such meters. One shutting down and entering an application loop just as it accepted my credit card (but couldn't print out a receipt), leading to a ticket. The other two meters repeatedly stopping the transaction after money had been entered. Now that the kiosks are widely spaced, traipsing from one to another is a chore. I can't imagine how visitors to the City feel if they have similar experiences. Do we need replacements? Now that we are charging more for parking, the least we can do is see that our meters are working. To add insult to injury, the Parking Department clearly states that non-working meters are not an excuse for appealing a ticket. But perhaps multiple non-working meters require an exception.

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

Yes

{Empty}

*subject Subject

City Council Website Contact Form

From City of Portsmouth <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Date Mon 10/12/2026 10:22 AM

To Webform Submission <webformsubmission@portsmouthnh.gov>

Cc City Council Clerk - Shr <ccclerk@portsmouthnh.gov>; City Council - Shr <ccemail@portsmouthnh.gov>; Carl E. Weber <ceweber@portsmouthnh.gov>; Karen S. Conard <kconard@portsmouthnh.gov>; Nathan D. Lunney <ndlunney@portsmouthnh.gov>; Susan G. Morrell <sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov>

Submitted on Mon, 10/12/2026 10:22

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

First Name

Wendy

Last Name

Kessler

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Cemeteries

Address

[REDACTED]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801-3309

Message

Good morning.

I read an article in the paper that read: "New Hampshire RSA 289.2 states every municipality shall provide, or may enter into agreements with adjacent municipalities or nonprofit entities to provide, one or more suitable cemeteries for the interment of deceased persons."

I didn't realize this. I wrote the council several years ago about my lack of ability to contact someone regarding the South Street Cemetery, and I was advised that it was sold out. I wasn't given other options. If my husband and I are not affiliated with a religious group, where can we be buried in Portsmouth? The law states the city is required to have somewhere for us to go.

Thanks.

Wendy Kessler

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

City Council meeting.

Yes

{Empty}

*subject Subject