

Mistretta, Susan

From: David Whitney <davidswitney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:46 AM
To: City Council - All; Cullen, Fergus
Subject: Fwd: outdoor seating for restaurants

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Dear City Council,

I am writing to you today for two reasons.

1. I never heard from anyone other than my ward rep, Fergus Cullen, for what the city's plans are for helping restaurants when they are allowed to seat customers on May 18th? Was and is any consideration being given to utilize side walks, and possibly use part of the Central Ave to allow more outdoor seating? Please see my original email below, that I sent on May 6th. Any thoughts or ideas from any of you would be greatly appreciated.

2. I would like my opinion noted for the record that I do not support the city or the school board going over budget. I have no illusions that things come up, and that "life" happens. However, the amount that things should go over budget should be relatively minimal. Examples: In a year that we have a lot of snow, the budget for the highway department would be higher than normal. A fire truck broke down and we need a new fire truck three years earlier than planned. I understand these things. I also understand that there is inflation and that the cost of goods and services go up over time. My concern is, if the school board has gone over the tax cap 5 years in a row, what is the point in having a tax cap? I understand that things are not free, and things that the city invests in, have to last for 10, 20, 30 years (or greater). This leads to a higher up front cost than buying a cheap, disposable product, but is better in the long run. I have three children; one of whom attends Horne St, and two others that will go there eventually. Our school system has to educate our children so that they can not only compete, but succeed in a global setting. To pay for talented and qualified educators and to have children learning in a building where they will not be chewing on asbestos tile and lead paint is important and is not inexpensive.

But in the end, things come down to money. I work as a financial planner and to say that the individuals and businesses who I work with are concerned about both the short and long term ramifications of the shutdown would be a classic understatement. Depending on what studies and numbers you use, between 40 and 50% of Americans cannot get their hands on 1,000 dollars within 24 hours without having to ask for loan from a family member, or a friend or putting it on a credit card. According to the mortgage bankers association, 6% of mortgages nationwide were in forbearance (as of the week ending April 12th). That is up from .25% in the beginning of March. Over 26 million Americans have applied for unemployment (and growing). There will be a ripple effect from this virus that will be felt for several years, and it is going to hurt those on the lower economic scale the most, followed by the middle class. Could I financial pay more money in taxes this year? Yes. Should I, and what percent of the city can, is the better question? Not only are single family households being impacted, but say you have someone with a duplex (or a commercial space). Because of the virus, your renter is not working and not paying rent, and the state will not allow evictions. Is that fair to make the owner of the duplex or other commercial property owner carry someone else financially, and than increase their taxes when they have less revenue coming in? Someone who may have lost their job themselves and or is not collecting rent? What is the point of having Dover turn into Portsmouth, if we have our taxes constantly go up? The state and city have had 7 plus years of bounty, those in government should and need to remember that the good times do not continue uninterrupted.

Any thoughts and responses would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Dover, NH 03820
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Whitney** <davidswitney@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 6, 2020 at 10:22 AM
Subject: outdoor seating for restaurants
To: <CityCouncil-All@doover.nh.gov>

Dear City Council,

I hope that all of you are safe and healthy in these interesting times. I would like to inquire about what the city's plans are for Dover restaurants being able to serve customers based on outside seating starting on May 18th? My concern is that not all restaurants will have access to outdoor space. I am sure that there are already ideas being discussed, but I would propose, or add my encouragement to three ideas. One would be to allow restaurants to use as much of the available sidewalks as possible. Second, to consider changing the section of Central Ave from the intersection of 2nd street to Washington Street, to pedestrian use only from 5pm to 9pm for restaurants to set up tables in the street. Third, if it is not considered feasible to block off that section of road completely, limit it to one lane only during that same time and, to eliminate most on street parking in that same section from 5pm to 9pm . This would give restaurants more space than what just the sidewalks can provide. I am extremely worried that a number of local establishments (food and otherwise) will not be able to reopen their doors ever again. I personally feel that the state has gone overboard in its restrictions. Since there is nothing that we can do to over turn these restrictions at a state level, anything that can be done to help our local business community should be fully considered and supported.

Sincerely,

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