

TO: Newburyport City Council
ATTN: City Council President Thomas O'Brien

C/O: City Clerk Richard Jones
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
(Submitted electronically)

CC: Mayor Donna Holaday

FROM: *Forwarded "in a Motion of Comity"*
Correspondents:
The Dears, Ken and Dominique, *"on behalf of ye rest"*

SUBJECT: Commending improved communication

DATE: March 9, 2010

Since it is uncertain whether the more general topic of "improved communications" will be included on the upcoming City Council meeting's agenda ---

And since (as we understand the rules) public comment may not anticipate prospective committee reports or general addresses made "in the good of the order" ---

Encouraged to share perspectives in support of the "visionary" plans for a "Google fiber" ultra-high-speed broadband pilot venture in port during the meeting's public comment period --- we shall also strongly commend our common resolve to seek (any and all) "ways of better communicating as a community" in the broader context.

Given the overwhelming positive response to the mayor's public forum held Saturday, March 6 --- and the momentum leading into the budget process --- let us strive that our municipal government's decision-making process is not only "transparent" but "apparent" (with respect to issues and ideas, challenges and opportunities, planning and operations).

Thus, when leading by example, the "body politic" of Newburyport will be a "model" --- not only for its innovation using high-speed communication tools --- but for its high quality information and content. (Of course, some of this function will be rather routine and tedious. For example, at the recent public forum, City Clerk Richard Jones conveyed that by July 1 the state will mandate that posting of all public meetings must include agendas.)

While the assignment to "ascertain" and maintain such content has long been the subject of conversation --- this is a reminder that when our forebears used the word "conversation," more often it was defined as "behavior." With that in mind, we must all aspire (and conspire) to do our part.

Aware that our city representatives are in the process of evaluating ways to better engage their constituents --- as well as the means to improve information flow --- hopefully this communication item prompts the opportune time to weigh both status and strategy. With that in mind, we plan to follow up and follow through with ongoing "conversation" in advance of the upcoming City Council meeting. And thank you all in advance for your consideration.