

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

C/O: City Clerk Richard Jones
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

ALSO: Mayor Donna Holaday
Director of Policy and Administration Andrew Flanagan
Director of the Office of Planning and Development Andrew Port

FROM: Forwarded "in a Motion of Comity" by the Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called) noted below

SUBJECT: Tandem communications to 1) preview of upcoming community event(s) to initiate any appropriate approvals by City Council for use of public ways and places, if necessary and 2) to instigate interest in the broader plans in motion mentioned in this cover letter.

DATE: August 3, 2010

While the communication dated July 20, 2010 --- addressed to the Council President Thomas O'Brien and City Council --- seeks permission for any incidental use of public ways and places on August 22 ---

This cover letter --- addressed to City Council President Thomas O'Brien as well as Mayor Donna Holaday --- revisits a communication item on the March 15 City Council meeting agenda ([hyperlink](#)). That correspondence dated March 9, which followed the mayor's public forum, encouraged both our municipal leaders to seek "ways of better communicating as a community."

Having secured approval from the Newburyport Waterfront Trust for the Waterside community (RE:generation) "jam and [gam](#)" to be held at Market Landing Park on Sunday, August 22 --- and further coordinating/collaborating with the Labor Day weekend festival to be held September 4 - 6 ---

We are hopeful that such "staged" (and spontaneous) gatherings will help gather momentum for "forward movement" (to lift an uplifting phrase from the Mayor's inaugural address, expressed, in context):

"Communication is key to successful leadership. I pledge to keep an open and transparent process to reach all of you. This must also be upheld with all of our boards and commissions. Current and proactive information aids in supports collaboration, input and forward movement. I will also request members of the city council to hold monthly, regularly scheduled ward meetings for you to raise concerns and issues and exchange information."

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Forwarded in a Motion of Comity ---

The Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called) "in ye name of ye rest" (****)

The Dears, Ken and Dominique (Correspondents in this accordance)
Kathy Heywood (Chair of the Newburyport Labor Day Weekend Festival)
(Contact: email comity@comcast.net)

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

C/O: City Clerk Richard Jones
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
(Drafted to submit electronically on Tuesday, July 20, withheld given the City Council meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, July 22)

FROM: Forwarded "in a Motion of Comity" by the Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called) noted below

SUBJECT: Communication item to 1) preview of upcoming community event(s) to initiate any appropriate approvals by City Council for use of public ways and places, if necessary and 2) to instigate interest in the broader plans in motion mentioned in the tandem communication.

DATE: July 20, 2010

With permission granted by the Newburyport Waterfront Trust to hold the Waterside "community [gam](#)" at Market Landing Park on Sunday, August 22 (*) ---

In advance for further planning, initiation and promotion --- **it may be prudent to review preliminary plans with the city, particularly the City Council** vis-à-vis any inconsequential use of public ways and places under its own purview.

To properly initiate the process and determine whether permission is in fact required, **please consider this memorandum as a communication item for the upcoming City Council meeting agenda. (**)**

Further revisions to the [Comity.org](#) website will also be posted with the Full Buck Moon (July 26 - 27) --- refining plans in motion during that timeframe (including the [pro]Motion of Comity with the Newburyport Labor Day Weekend Festival. ***)

We hope to engage the City Council about relevant (and related) "matters and things" (some of which addressed in the tandem email) which will put this event into context. In the interim, **should you have any further questions about this request** (beyond the information found on page 2 of this correspondence) **please feel free to contact the undersigned.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Forwarded in a Motion of Comity ---

The Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called) "in ye name of ye rest" (****)

The Dears, Ken and Dominique (Correspondents in this accordance)
Kathy Heywood (Chair of the Newburyport Labor Day Weekend Festival)
(Contact: email comity@comcast.net)

Footnotes:

* Referring to the application for use of public lands held by the Newburyport Waterfront Trust which was unanimously approved by the trustees July 12 meeting: further information can be found at this [hyperlink](#) which also references Comity's application for use online.

** Aside from the aforementioned Newburyport Waterfront Trust property, any use of public ways and spaces on August 22 will be transient and/or within the confines of law and city ordinances. This request is similar to that made October 20, 2009 for use of public spaces during the "Once in a Blue Moon opportunity" held New Year's Eve --- which resulted in the Newburyport City Council's Public Safety standing committee concluding that no formal application would be necessary.

While conceivably such use (e.g., of Market Square and Inn Street) is a matter of right, we sense that it is a matter of courtesy to engage the Council in advance to ensure full accordance with this interpretation. Ward 3 Councillor Cronin, who also chairs the Public Safety standing committee, will be contacted for advice and direction.

*** Permission for use of public places for the Newburyport Labor Day Weekend Festival was approved by the City Council and Newburyport Waterfront Trust at their respective meetings held July 12. While promotion for the Labor Day weekend event has commenced, promotion for the Waterside community "jam and [gam](#)" on August 22 (including flyers, posters and coverage in local print and broadcast media) shall begin in earnest next week, well before the New Sturgeon Moon (August 10 - 11). Given the "synergy" between the two events, this communication seeks to avoid any confusion about "time" and "space."

**** Insight about these terms can be found on the Comity.org website at this [hyperlink](#) --- summarized as follows:

"In the early 18th Century records of [the Waterside Third Parish of Newbury in the Massachusetts Bay Colony](#), the word committee was commonly spelled [Comity](#). This word, with its provincial spelling, also defines the basic tenet of [the Waterside people's 1763 petition](#) (to set off the parish as the separate town of town of Newburyport --- a deed officially ratified under the colonial governor's seal on February 4, 1764) ---

"[...] Comity chose not to form as an organized group but to remain a "[committee of correspondence](#)" for the Waterside movement --- intent on reawakening the Spirit of Community with a "Sense of Place" and a "Sense of Purpose" using both words and deeds.

"[...] Indeed, the organic movement's timeless (and tireless) agenda was laid out by [the Waterside people's 1763 petition](#). Thus and so, in every sense (and tense) --- all generations who help form the Waterside community of Newburyport remain members of this continuous movement ~ in a [Motion of Comity](#)."

The assigned "Comity" (often two or three individuals) would present the correspondence and reports (to the General Court or community at large) --- with the signatories appending the phrase "in ye name of ye rest" --- to indicate the broader citizenry involved in the preparation (or endorsement) of the report, proposal or appeal.